

Bodies sucked from fuselage after explosion over Greece

Three die as mid-air blast rocks TWA jet

From Mario Modiano, Athens

Three passengers on a TWA Boeing 727 airliner, one a child, were killed over Greece yesterday when a mid-air explosion ripped a large hole in the fuselage and caused their bodies to be sucked out. Another child passenger was reported missing.

The bodies were found on the ground. Three other passengers were admitted to hospital but their injuries were said not to be serious. The airliner, carrying 114 passengers and a crew of seven, was on a regular flight from Rome to Cairo via Athens. Thirty minutes before landing time, the pilot alerted Athens control tower that there had been an explosion while the 727 was flying at 11,000 ft above the city of Argos, 87 miles south-west of here.

The bodies of a man identified as Alberto Sino, a Colombian, a woman and a child, both unidentified, were discovered near Argos airfield after a shepherd told the police he had seen objects falling from the plane. A search for the possible fourth victim began.

Mr Dennis Taylor, the TWA pilot, managed to land at Athens airport at 12.35 GMT. Seven passengers were taken to hospital but only three were detained for treatment. One is an American, Mrs Myrtle Simpson from Los Angeles. The other two are a Saudi couple who said they had been sitting next to the Colombian passenger who was killed.

A Greek Foreign Ministry spokesman said the blast was believed to have been caused by an explosive device "concealed in the hand luggage of a passenger". The spokesman said "passengers testified that their hand luggage was given only a cursory inspection be-

fore they boarded the plane at Rome". In Rome it was said that only the luggage of the 10 passengers who had boarded the flight there was checked. Earlier it had been stated that the explosion had occurred between the cargo compartment and the passenger area. It caused a hole 6ft by 3ft wide on the fuselage starboard.

Airline officials said that the plane would have disintegrated if the explosion had occurred while it was flying at its usual cruising altitude of 22,000 ft.

The airliner, TWA flight 847, was on the same route as the plane of the same company which was hijacked by Shia gunmen in June last year after taking off from Athens for Rome. It was then diverted to Algiers and one passenger, a US Navy diver, was killed by the hijackers.

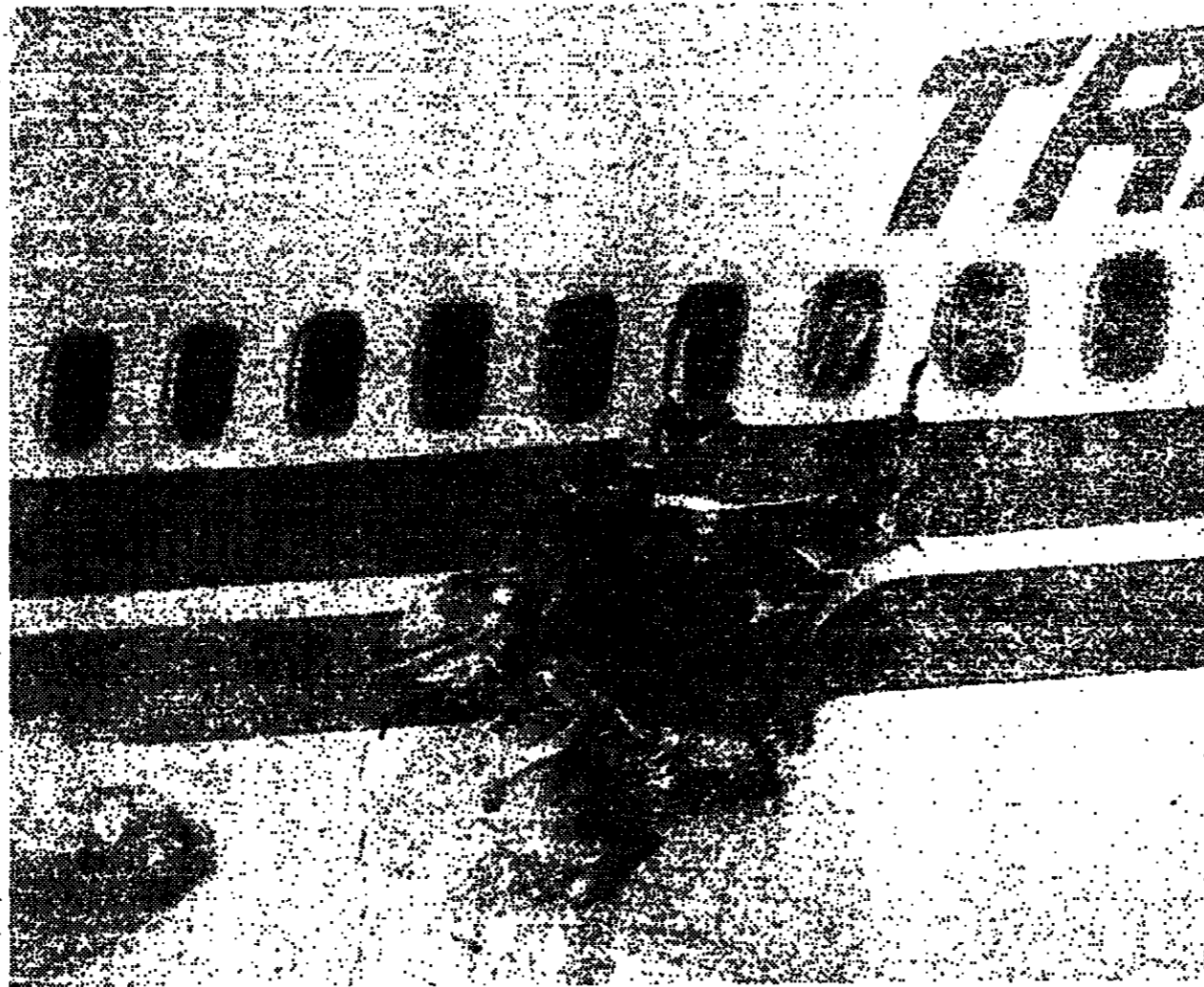
One woman passenger escaped the blast because she left her seat only minutes earlier to go to the lavatory. Mrs Florentia Haniotakis, a Greek-American from Ohio travelling with her two small children, told Reuters she had been sitting next to the spot where the explosion happened.

She praised the seven-member crew and said they had comforted passengers during the emergency landing. "Everyone grabbed their oxygen masks and the crew assured us we would be all right," she said.

Mr Paul Sutherland, an American executive with the Bank of America in Greece, said he heard a big noise and saw the aircraft cabin fill with haze.

Another passenger, Mrs Cora Stijnak, a Japanese-American, said: "No one

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The hole ripped in the TWA airliner's fuselage by the explosion and through which the passengers were sucked

Praise for pilot who flew on

By Michael Bailly Transport Editor

Flying and landing a Boeing 727 with a 10 foot hole in its side was "a very good piece of airmanship" by the TWA pilot, according to Captain Mike Clarke, president of the British Airline Pilots' Association.

"The sadness of the loss of life seems to have been contained in the initial seconds, and to have concluded the trip without any further complications suggests a very good piece of piloting", Capt Clarke said last night.

The immediate problem after the explosion would be decompression and lack of oxygen. Flight crew would use oxygen and go down to a height where passengers could breathe normally.

A gaping hole in the side of the fuselage would interfere with airflow and the aircraft's handling qualities in an unpredictable way. But a greater hazard would be loss of hydraulic systems controlling flaps, slats and rudder, which would require emergency action by flight crew.

Normally there are three separate systems and loss of one or two (clearly all three were not lost) would involve delay in activating controls. It was apparently lucky that the explosive device was close to the side of the aircraft, which meant that much of the blast would go outwards.

implement politically-based decisions. Later Sir John met the Northern Ireland Police Authority to give them a detailed account of events at the weekend.

Mr James Molyneux, leader of the Official Unionist Party (OUP), yesterday demanded an immediate end to "outrageous attacks on policemen and their families, together with indiscriminate destruction of property". He gave a warning that Ulster would be reduced to "anarchy and ruin" if loyalists allowed themselves to be used as riot fodder.

Events in Portadown, during which 148 plastic bullets were fired at loyalist rioters, have infuriated many Protestants. There have been loud protests at the alleged indiscriminate use of plastic bullets and in their fury loyalists have

Continued on page 2, col 6

City shrugs off gloom as oil climbs past \$10

By David Smith and Teresa Poole

Share prices and the pound moved confidently upwards yesterday, shrugging off concern about the collapse in oil prices.

The price of oil moved back above \$10 a barrel, but the outlook remains uncertain. Share prices soared to record levels, the Financial Times 30-share index closing 17.2 points up at 1419.4. The wider FTSE 100-share index moved above the 1700 level, showing a gain of 18.9 points on the day at 1702.9.

The price of North Sea oil rallied on news that the American Vice-President, Mr George Bush, planned to discuss the stabilization of the oil market when he arrives in Saudi Arabia on Saturday for the first leg of a four-nation visit to the Gulf.

He said: "I think it is essential that we talk about stability and that we not just have a continued free fall like a parachutist jumping out without a parachute."

But Mr Bush said he would not tell the Saudis to cut production. Gains of up to \$1.50 a barrel were reported for Brent, the most widely traded North Sea crude, but dealers said the market was very thin and nervous.

As oil prices rebounded, taking their lead from late trading in New York, the International Petroleum Exchange in London was forced for the first time to suspend dealings for a second successive day.

The pound rose by half a cent to \$1.4735 against a generally firm dollar, and also posted good gains against other currencies, including a six pence rise to DM3.4877 against the German mark. The sterling index rose 0.7 points to 76.5.

Despite the weakness of oil prices in recent weeks, the Bank of England stocked up Britain's gold and foreign currency reserves last month. The underlying rise in reserves, of \$278 million (£189 million), was the biggest monthly increase since January 1981. The actual rise was a much larger \$2.94 billion, mainly because of the annual revaluation of reserves.

As a result, Britain's reserves stood at \$18,750 million (£12,686 million) at the end of last month, their highest level since March 1982.

The renewed rise in share prices reflects the belief that the benefits of lower oil prices more than outweigh any worries about the effects on the US banking system.

International bodies, including the Paris-based Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development and the International Monetary Fund in Washington, believe that the fall in oil prices will bring about stronger world growth without inflation.

The International Monetary Fund, in its World Economic Outlook, to be published next week, expects 3 per cent world growth this year. Its earlier forecast was for a 2.8 per cent expansion.

For Britain, the London Business School expects the oil price fall to be reflected in a lower rate of inflation next year, 2.5 per cent, than growth in output, forecast at 3.2 per cent.

BL's preliminary results show that the group's turnover

Petrol set for further price fall

By Teresa Poole

Petrol prices are set to decline further after the recent slide in the oil price to \$10 a barrel.

Oil companies yesterday reported a continuing downward trend, with one industry official describing the scene as a "controlled plummet".

The average price of a gallon of four-star is now 175p, but regional variations across the country mean a wide spread from below 160p to more than 180p. In some areas competition on the forecourts has already eroded the 7.5p duty increase imposed in last month's budget.

A spokesman for Esso said: "The trend in the past few days has been downwards. If

the spot market price of \$10 a barrel works its way through the system and the exchange rate remains stable, then we would expect to see competition increasing and petrol prices coming down."

The price could only drop according to the Mobil, which this week lowered its reference price to match the 179.6p maximum set by Esso, BP, and Shell.

The fall in the crude oil price is likely to bring renewed government pressure on the oil companies to pass on the benefits of cheaper oil to consumers. After the budget, both the Prime Minister and the Chancellor criticized the oil industry for passing on the full duty increase to the motorist.

The price of crude accounts for about 36p of the cost of a gallon of four-star, but any weakness in sterling can weigh out the impact of cheaper crude because oil is priced in dollars.

Sterling has held its ground against the dollar in spite of the sharp decline of oil prices over the past four months which means that cheaper oil is now working its way through the refinery system.

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Pretoria lifts ban on Mrs Mandela

From Michael Hornsby Soweto

The wife of Nelson Mandela, the jailed leader of the outlawed African National Congress, yesterday returned to her home in Soweto after the government lifted all restrictions on her movements for the first time in 10 years.

A defiant Mrs Winnie Mandela told a crowd of newsmen, neighbours and well-wishers who crammed into her garden: "I am grateful to no one. It is my right to be at home, and it is not any particular step towards a change in the government's policy."

Mrs Mandela said it was quite obvious to her now that the government had never intended to release her husband from jail. It had merely given that impression "to hoodwink the world into believing that (it) was moving towards some kind of a reformist programme".

Mr Ismail Ayob, Mrs Mandela's lawyer, said he was told by the state attorney representing Mr Louis Le Grange, the Minister of Law and Order, that the government was no longer contesting Mrs Mandela's appeal against her "banning" order, which, among other things, prohibited her from entering Soweto.

"The effects of that is that she is unbanned but she remains silenced because of the ban on all meetings in the country and because she is still a 'listed' person," Mr Ayob told *The Times*.

Mrs Mandela has been subjected to banning orders of one kind or another almost continuously since 1962. In 1974 she was jailed for six months.

In May 1977, Mrs Mandela was banished to a black township near Brandfontein, a small rural town in the Orange Free State. Last December, however, the government cancelled the banishment and relaxed some of the other restrictions on her.

Under the modified ban, she was free to live in any black area outside the Johannesburg and Roodepoort magisterial districts, which include Soweto. She was also permitted to attend social but not political gatherings.

The state's decision to abandon its case against Mrs Mandela appears to be a direct result of a ruling last month by the Appeal Court in Bloemfontein which, in effect, required the Minister of Law and Order to give fuller reasons for imposing banning orders.

Meanwhile, Bishop Desmond Tutu yesterday called on the international community to impose "punitive sanctions against this government to help us establish a new South Africa: non-racial, democratic, participatory and just".

Continued on page 2, col 8

Teachers vote to defy new exam

The education service was thrown into further chaos yesterday when the biggest teachers' union voted to continue to teach O level and CSE courses this autumn in defiance of the Government's plans to introduce a new examination for pupils aged 16.

The decision by delegates of the National Union of Teachers at their annual conference in Blackpool was taken in secret session and in opposition to the NUT leadership which argued that the move would alienate parents at a time when the unions needed them. It might also place the union's members in breach of contract.

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, responded swiftly to the decision. He said the new GCSE examination would still go ahead as planned in the interests of raising standards.

Sir Keith said: "Teachers have made much of their wish to win more sympathy from parents. Pupils who start their fourth year of education this autumn have the right to be taught for the new exam. Teaching them for an exam which does not exist in the summer of 1988 will damage them during a vital period in their school careers."

The rebellion by NUT delegates comes after the decision by the second biggest teachers' union, the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, to continue to boycott the development work for the new examination. But the NAS/UWT is committed only to boycotting the preparation phase and not the examination's introduction.

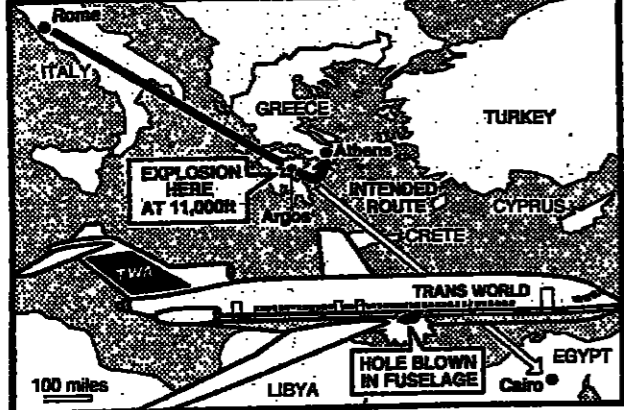
The NUT's motion pledges the union not only to continuing the boycott of preparation and training, but also to continue teaching existing syllabuses until it is satisfied that the new examination is "adequately planned and funded".

In a brief public session in Blackpool, Mrs June Fisher, an NUT executive member, was hoodwinked when she commented that Sir Keith would not defer the September introduction of the GCSE.

She said: "There are teachers genuinely concerned for the children who are going to be facing the new syllabuses in the coming September term. Those colleagues do not want to see their children disadvantaged."

Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the NUT, said: "It demonstrates the strength of feeling of many of our members in the schools. The NUT's leaders are to seek an urgent meeting with Sir Keith to urge a one year postponement and to ask for the extra £100 million which they say is needed for the introduction of the new examination."

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Tomorrow

A child in danger
When does a parent's carelessness become neglect?

Law Society finals
Full winter examination results

Portfolio
The £4,000 prize in yesterday's Times Portfolio competition, double the usual amount because there was no winner the previous day, was shared by two readers, Mr P O Holloway of Chantler's Ford, Hants, and Mr Derek Long, of Brighton, Sussex. Portfolio list page 22; how to play, information service, page 16.

Home News 2-4
Overseas 5-9
Appointments 11
Births, deaths, marriages 14
Business 17-22
Crosswords 10, 16

Diary 12
Law Report 21
Letters 13
Science 34
Sport 26-31
Theatres, etc 31
TV & Radio 31
Weather 16

Loyalists attack homes of police

From Richard Ford, Belfast

The homes of police and Roman Catholic houses and chapels were attacked by hard-line "loyalists" yesterday, in an ominous development of the protests against the Anglo-Irish agreement.

The attacks on police homes is part of an insidious campaign to destroy the morale of a force which unionists allege is being used politically to enforce the agreement.

The Royal Ulster Constabulary said that in the last month 43 police officers had been intimidated and 11 officers and their families had been forced to move home because of intimidation.

The attacks were discussed at a meeting between the police federation, which represents rank and file officers, and Sir John Hermon, Chief Constable of the RUC. Federation representatives expressed the concern of officers that they were being used to

implement politically-based decisions. Later Sir John met the Northern Ireland Police Authority to give them a detailed account of events at the weekend.

Mr James Molyneux, leader of the Official Unionist Party (OUP), yesterday demanded an immediate end to "outrageous attacks on policemen and their families, together with indiscriminate destruction of property". He gave a warning that Ulster would be reduced to "anarchy and ruin" if loyalists allowed themselves to be used as riot fodder.

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24 Hours Car Wash Shop

1579
1599

Motorists begin to benefit from oil price plunge

Pressure for pact, page 17

BL loss soars by 50% to £110m

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

BL yesterday announced pretax losses for 1985 of £110.3 million, a 50 per cent increase on 1984 losses. But Land Rover, the privatization candidate, saw its profits leap from £2 million to £10 million.

BL's preliminary results show that the group's turnover

was £3.415 billion, up from 1984's £2.955 billion, with exports totalling £764 million. BL's overall loss, after tax, interest and extraordinary items, was £138 million. The 1984 profit of £80.6 million was distorted by the proceeds from the sale of Jaguar.

The state-controlled group's operating loss of £39.5 million for 1985 was a "significant reduction" from the 1984 loss of £66.5 million, the directors said.

Land Rover was helped last year by good results from Freight Rover. Letters, page 13 Report, page 17

Kidnap fears grow for two Britons

Fears were growing yesterday that two British teachers missing in Beirut may have been kidnapped. The British Embassy said its efforts to locate them had produced no clues.

Mr Leigh Douglas, aged 34, a teacher at the American University of Beirut, and Mr Philip Padfield, aged 40, director of the city's International Language Centre, were last seen on Friday night leaving a public house. Fears for Britons, page 5

Landlord & Tenant

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County Hall 'to go to top bidder' in massive deal

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

The sale of County Hall, until last Tuesday the headquarters of the Greater London Council, will be the biggest single property deal ever in Britain, the new owner of the building said yesterday.

Sir Godfrey (Tag) Taylor, chairman of the London Residuary Body, which now owns County Hall, said: "It is a unique site worldwide."

Although demolition "must be a possibility", the famous frontage that faces the Houses of Parliament across Westminster Bridge was protected by listing as a historic building.

Sir Godfrey said the aim was to secure a sale of the building as one unit, with its 1,200 rooms, 1.2 million square feet of usable space and five miles of mainly panelled corridors.

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has inherited planning powers from the GLC, will also have a say in deciding the fate of County Hall next year.

The building cannot be sold until a new headquarters has been found for the Inner London Education Authority, which still occupies it.

The arts will not suffer financially because of the abolition of the GLC and metropolitan councils, the Arts Council claimed yesterday.

Extra funds from the council, local authorities and regional arts associations will meet the overall sum given to the arts by the abolished bodies.

But the effects will vary, with some parts of the North better off than before and others, notably Merseyside, probably worse off.

In London the council has joined forces with the City of Westminster to secure £4.7 million to replace GLC grants for the National Theatre, the English National Opera, the London Festival Ballet and London Orchestras.

The ENO, the National Theatre and the LFB will also receive 4 per cent increases in their general Arts Council grants.

Mr Luke Rittner, the council's secretary general, said that the prospects for arts funding after abolition were now much less bleak than they appeared a few months ago.

The settlement, still under negotiation, should guarantee the future of companies which relied on the abolished bodies for their survival.

According to the Arts Council these include the threatened Sadler's Wells and Almeida theatres.

The new South Bank board, which will run the South Bank arts complex in London, is to receive £8.75 million.

A total of £78 million was paid with two cheques last week to Satman Developments, a company formed to continue GLC housing renovation work in the boroughs.

All of the contracts for which the money is destined were settled by the GLC in its final hours, and the job of Satman is to hand it out to the organizations chosen by the council.

But Satman has agreed for legal reasons to pay nothing for a month to allow time for legal challenges to the GLC's decision not to pay money to every borough.

The money paid to Satman includes about £37 million which the GLC tried to hand to the Inner London Education Authority until the payment was blocked in court.

It also includes £16 million on which a court challenge by Conservative-led London boroughs was withdrawn last month.



The postcard view from County Hall, former home of the Greater London Council, across the Thames to Westminster (Photograph: Bill Warhurst)

Legal moves start over GLC cash

By Our Environment Correspondent

The quango left to wind up the business of the Greater London Council has called for legal advice about the destination of the "absent millions" that were signed away by the council in its final hours.

Sir Godfrey Taylor, chairman of the London Residuary Body, said yesterday: "We are taking legal advice about the whole of the package. We would hope to have it by Monday."

At least £80 million is involved in the legal complications that have interrupted its disbursement to the London boroughs and voluntary organizations chosen by the GLC.

There are two key legal points in dispute, and at least one is likely to be resolved when judgement on a GLC appeal is delivered by the Lords next week.

The first point is whether the GLC, which no longer exists, had the power to allocate money for spending as it wished after it had been abolished.

The second is whether the council had the power to allocate money to only some of the 32 London boroughs instead of letting the residuary body pay it to all of them.

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COUNCIL	%
Calderdale	+37
Cumbria	+36
Cambs	+33
Bucks	+30
Scottsdale	+29
Kirklees	+29
Bradford	+28
Oxon	+28
Avon	+28
Leics	+27
Somerset	+27
Wilt	+26
Gateshead	+25
S.Glamorgan	+24
Rotherham	+24
Nthumberland	+23
Herts	+22
Lincoln	+22
Cornwall	+20
Sandwell	+20
Devon	+20
Dorset	+20
E.Sussex	+20
Lutwyche	+20
Wex	+20
Sheffield	+18
Sothill	+17
Liverpool	+16
Birmingham	+15
Hampshire	+15
Dyfed	+15
Powys	+15
Surrey	+12
Aberdeen	+10
Glasgow	+10
Edinburgh	+5
Newcastle	+2
Ldn Sutton	+2
Brent	0
Enfield	0
City	0
Westminster	-1
Harrow	-1
Kingston	-3
Bromley	-6
Haringey	-10
Hackney	-11
Hammersmith	-15
Kensington & Chelsea	-26



Mr Idris Pearce (left) and Sir Godfrey Taylor, who will decide the future of County Hall

Maxwell's papers in production

The dispute which stopped production of the *Sunday Mail* and *Daily Record*, Scotland's biggest selling daily newspaper, for three weeks, was settled yesterday.

The 1,000 workers who were dismissed at Mr Robert Maxwell's publishing plant at Anderson Quay, Glasgow, were back at work last night.

The deal reached between Mr Maxwell and leaders of Sogat '82, the NGA and the NUJ, was accepted by the workforce in Glasgow.

Month-long talks are to be held on the future of the two newspapers. All workers who were dismissed will be reinstated and there is a guarantee of no compulsory redundancies.

Other key points in the agreement were acceptance of a nine-day fortnight instead of a four-day working week, with no more than 25 per cent redundancy in any one department.

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Tory plea for end to drink laws

Abolition of the licensing laws, allowing advertising on the BBC and scrapping the licence fee, were among promises called to be included in the next Conservative election manifesto by the Federation of Conservative Students yesterday.

The sale of the Post Office and privatization of coal, electricity and rail were also among the package of measures proposed in the federation's version of the Conservative Manifesto 1987, published on the opening day of the annual conference at Scarborough.

It calls for promises to bring inflation down to zero and income tax down to 20p to reform the tax system with the purpose of introducing a single flat rate of income tax; to establish a personal retirement account into which tax-free funds can be paid towards private pensions; to raise VAT thresholds; to provide tax relief for private health care and to end the unequal tax treatment of women.

We the People (Federation of Conservative Students, 32 Smith Square, London SW1P 3HH.)

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Aberdeen fears end of the North Sea boom

By Ronald Faux

Four drilling rigs lie idle in Aberdeen Bay marking the ominous calm that has fallen on the North Sea exploration programme. A drop in the price of crude oil has sent a detectable shudder through the oil capital of Europe.

All the main oil companies have announced cuts in their drilling programmes amounting to many millions of dollars. Those are bound to work through the system and eventually reduce the demand for the services Aberdeen has become expert at providing.

The most optimistic feeling in the city is that oil prices will have picked up again before the end of the summer, so that the city might not feel any severe effects from lost trade or lower demand.

One Aberdeen trader said: "The impact is being felt by the oil industry, not by us at the moment."

North Sea oil reaches its peak production this year with 42 platforms off the east coast pumping oil ashore for a much lower return. Mr Jim Henderson, principal development officer with Grampian region, said that nearly all the platforms were producing oil at \$5 (about £3.30) a barrel or below.

The BP Forties field, the first in the North Sea, was producing for \$1.50 a barrel. "They will keep producing and as long as that happens a

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The oil price fall

Sea fields, of which probably no more than 14 would have manned platforms. Unless there was some government incentive to continue the programme, the fear was that many of those plans would be postponed. That would have an impact on the design, fabrication and light engineering services provided by the region.

The shift from large production platforms to subsea or floating systems has cast a shadow over the fabrication yards in the north of Scotland where competition is severe and where demand could be affected by the lower oil price. The specialists are having to

compete not only with one another but as the size of the structures diminishes, conventional shipbuilding yards throughout Britain are able to bid for work.

Local authority leaders in the north of Scotland said yesterday that they feared the cut in oil prices would mean less work for the fabrication yards in the Highlands, making a severe unemployment problem even worse.

In Aberdeen, however, Mr Henderson was optimistic about the long-term future. Aberdeen and Grampian region host 150 foreign companies, 120 of them Ameri-

can, on the United Kingdom register. Some have grown to be bigger than their American parents and one has moved its world headquarters to Aberdeen.

Although the high wages and inflationary effects of North Sea oil have kept other new industries out of the city, Aberdeen remains an important fishing port and retains a bedrock of sound traditional industries.

Unemployment is less than 8 per cent, industrial estates and new hotels have mushroomed on the city outskirts, and Aberdeen airport is one of the busiest in Europe.

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Cheaper coal for power stations

The sharp drop in oil prices has forced the coal board to cut the cost of its supplies to several power stations and to begin negotiating new general pricing agreements with the Central Electricity Generating Board.

However, the NCB said yesterday there was no evidence that its customers were switching from coal to cheaper oil and no immediate prospect of mounting stocks of unwanted coal.

The CEGB, by far the coal board's biggest customer, confirmed that it had not used its capacity to switch fuel supplies and there had been no

reduction in its purchases of coal. An NCB spokesman said the initial fall in oil prices in mid-February had resulted in local price adjustments, in agreement with the CEGB, affecting individual power stations.

At about the same time the two boards began discussions on general pricing arrangements and it was hoped an agreement could be worked out soon, he said.

"It is important to take account of the uncertainty in the oil market, but equally we should not be pushed or panicked into any imprudent action. The aim is to reach a

sensible agreement, taking the longer view, in the interests of both our industries and of the consumers," the spokesman said.

The last general price increase, which took effect last November, was less than the rate of inflation for the fifth consecutive year. The NCB could not assess how its income would be affected, but so far it was still on course for its target of reaching breakeven point by March 1988.

The CEGB buys about two-thirds of NCB production, which is expected to be about 90 million tonnes per annum during the next five years.

Loyalists in attacks on police homes

Continued from page 1 turned on the police in their homes where they are at their most vulnerable.

A young police reservist recovering in hospital was described as "well" after being shot in the back in his home in North Belfast early yesterday. Loyalists also fired at police officers conducting a follow-up search.

Shots were fired at the home of a reservist in Newtownabbey but no one was injured. In the Shankill Road area of Belfast, the son of a five of a reservist escaped injury when loyalists hurled a petrol bomb through a bedroom window, causing extensive damage to the house which he had recently put up for sale.

Another police officer's home near by was petrol bombed.

Mr Martin Gillespie, a neighbour of one of the officers, said that the police were Protestants in RUC uniform, and as they had opened up on Protestants, loyalists had a right to retaliate.

RUC challenge, page 12

RUC challenge, page 12

RUC challenge, page 12

RUC challenge, page 12

Call for ban on violent students

From Lucy Hodges Education Correspondent Scarborough

Children who commit serious offences at school, and who abuse or assault teachers, should be expelled and put in an educational establishment elsewhere, the conference of the second biggest teachers' union in Scarborough was told yesterday.

In an emotional debate on violence in schools, directed specifically at the Poundswick High School affair in Manchester, the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers voted unanimously to condemn local authorities who insist that abusive and violent pupils should return to the same school.

There were two standing ovations for 18 NAS/UWT members from Manchester, who have been refusing to teach errant pupils for the past six months. As a result they have been sent home with no pay.

Mr Michael Iman, the union's president, announced afterwards that there would be a national rally in support of the Poundswick staff on May 4 in Manchester. There will also be a rolling programme of lightning strike action in Manchester's schools in the first half of next term.

The teachers' salaries are being met by the union at a cost of £2,500 a week.

Moving yesterday's motion, Mr John Hughes, of Bexley, said: "You can hardly expect that a teacher who has been so abused should have any of those pupils in school again."

Referring to a survey of pupil violence carried out by his union last week, Mr Hughes said that verbal abuse and physical attacks on teachers were on the increase.

A teacher from a boys' secondary school in Southampton in the survey said that during the past 14 years he had been assaulted seven times.

Miss Chris Elwood, the union representative at Poundswick, said her members would "stick to their guns" because the issue was so fundamental to standards in education.

A motion proposing that examinations should no longer be exempt from industrial action was postponed for further debate today. It was moved yesterday by Mr Ian Draper, from Northamptonshire, who said that 10 out of 13 NAS/UWT members had left the union at his school because of the recent Acas settlement.

Petrol set for further fall in pump price

Continued from page 1 leading to a steady fall in pump prices.

Oil companies yesterday described the immediate situation as very volatile and confused, and a spokesman for the 1,200 cut-price Jet garages said: "We are waiting to see what happens to the current situation while the level of stocks works its way through the system."

But across the industry expectations were for further price reductions.

A survey of petrol prices by the Automobile Association yesterday showed that Britain has some of the cheapest petrol in Europe, with only West Germany, Luxembourg, and Yugoslavia significantly lower.

Within the Britain, petrol costs varied from 159p in the West Country to 195p in the Highlands. The regional averages for four-star were 171p in the West Country, 173p in the North, 176p in the Midlands, 176.5p in the South-east, and 179.5p in Scotland.

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Provision for children after divorce far from adequate, report says

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Children of divorcing parents were forced out of the matrimonial home in about 50 per cent of cases with inadequate, if any, maintenance awarded for them and the former wives, according to a new survey of divorce settlements.

It shows that contrary to the principle that the custodian parent should remain in the home with the children, half the children in more than 100 settlements had to move out, usually because the house was sold.

Awards for children, although frequent, were often inadequate to cover the costs of the children as determined by the National Foster Care Association, the survey says.

It also shows that in spite of the belief that former wives often receive over-generous maintenance awards, the sums ordered for wives with dependent children were unlikely to cover their expenses.

The survey, published in the *Solicitors' Journal*, was conducted at Leeds University on the basis of 105 settlements negotiated by solicitors locally for divorcing couples who owned their own homes.

Miss Margaret Southwell, the research fellow, says every year 87,000 children under 16 are affected by their parents' divorce.

In the survey, maintenance was ordered for the children in 73 per cent of decided cases, and was more frequent where the children were under 10 years old. But the sums awarded were only adequate to cover their needs in 35 per cent of cases.

Where the former wife had custody - which happens in 87 per cent of divorces - maintenance was ordered for her in 37 per cent of cases, the survey shows. Such mothers were more likely to get an order for maintenance when the house was sold than if they stayed in the home.

The sums ordered were unlikely to cover the former wives' expenses. Few custodial mothers were fully compensated for the loss of or reduction in earning capacity resulting from their child care duties, and most received no compensation at all.

The matrimonial home was sold in 32 per cent of cases, with one parent remaining in occupation in nearly 70 per cent of cases; roughly the same figures as for divorcing couples with no young children.

The presence of children was therefore not a significant factor in the sale of the home.

The separation of parents is a traumatic experience, the article says, and judicial practice is supposed to allow the custodian parent to stay in the home with the children. Such practice does not apply in many cases, according to the findings.

Custody was an important factor in deciding which party should remain in the home, but the value of the home was another factor.

The higher the value, the more likely the former husband was to remain, which conflicts with the principle that children's need should be paramount, the article says.

The survey was based on settlements mostly reached between June 1983 and June 1984, before the new Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Act 1984 which says first consideration should be given to the welfare of children.

Domesday Book is bound to please

By Alan Hamilton

The Domesday Book, rebound into five volumes instead of its original two, goes on display at the Public Record Office in London for the summer from today as part of the celebrations to mark the 900th anniversary of its compilation.

Encased in a steel security cage at the Public Record Office branch at Kew, restorers and bookbinders have been working for several months replacing the previous binding, applied in 1952, which has failed to stand up to the attentions of scholars leafing through the sheepskin parchment pages. Every page has also been photographed for the production of a full-colour facsimile edition to go on sale soon at a cost of £2,500.

King William's survey of his newly-conquered land is treated with reverence by the Public Record Office, who look after it with greater care than in the days when its covers were food for worms in a below-stairs cupboard in the chapter house at Westminster Abbey.

Dr Geoffrey Martin, keeper of the public records, said at a preview of the exhibition yesterday: "There is no comparable record of such antiquity still in the keeping of the government which ordered it. It is as much a national monument as the Tower of London."

Splitting Great Domesday, covering the majority of England, and Little Domesday, covering East Anglia, into five volumes was to make them easier to handle, Dr Martin explained. Bound into one volume, Great Domesday is nearly nine inches thick.

The exhibition, which portrays life in eleventh-century England, also attempts to explain Domesday, essentially a survey rather than a full-scale census. In keeping with latter-day bureaucratic practice, all returns by the roving commissioners to the book's editors at Winchester had to be filled out in triplicate.

It contains two million words, names 13,418 places, and values England at £73,000. It lists the country as having, among other classes of Saxon peasant, 109,230 villeins, 23,235 slaves, 1,027 priests, 16 beekeepers, and one female jester. It also records the Saxon equivalent of the Consumer Protection Act, in Chester: "Anyone who made bad beer was either put on the dung stool or paid four shillings the reeves."

Widows who had unlawful sexual relations were punished with a fine of 100 shillings, although young girls committing the same misdemeanour were let off more lightly. Breaches of planning regulations, such as building a fence too close to the road, also attracted a fine of 100 shillings.

Dr Martin hopes that the publicity over Domesday's anniversary will encourage original scholarly research into its compilation. "It is the work of one mind, but of several hands. We would like to know more of the various scribes who wrote it."



Edward Peters, aged 11, from Sittingbourne, Kent, with a page of the Domesday Book which traces his ancestry back to 1086 (Photograph: Tim Bishop).

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Mother fears girl disappeared with person she knew

The mother of Sarah Harper, the missing schoolgirl, collapsed in grief after making an emotional appeal yesterday for the return of her daughter.

Mrs Jackie Harper said: "If she is dead, at least she cannot be hurt any more. But we do hope she is alive."

The girl, aged 10, vanished from her home in Morley, West Yorkshire, last week after going to a local shop for a loaf of bread and crisps.

Mrs Harper, aged 26, was cradled in the arms of her mother, Mrs Marlene Hopton, aged 48, as she spoke publicly for the first time about her daughter's disappearance. She said Sarah would never have gone willingly with a stranger.

After a press conference organized by the police, Mrs Harper buckled at the knees and had to be helped out by her mother and a member of the Salvation Army.

In a shaky voice and clutching a packet of paper tissues, Mrs Harper said: "She is one-third of my life. I just do not know what to say. I cannot remember a right lot to be honest. I just feel so guilty for sending her out, but she had been so many times."

Mrs Harper said: "You just do not think. I just want her back. Even if she is dead, just pick up the telephone and tell us where the body is."

"She would not go with someone strange, not willingly she would not. The last time she ran off and took the registration number of the car. She would not go with someone she does not know. It is someone she knows. It is someone she knows."

"I imagine someone from the area. I have always drilled it into her, if someone tries to take her, to scream and shout and kick and make as much noise as possible no matter what they offered."

Mrs Harper sat between Det Supt John Stainthorpe and her mother.

As she was helped from her seat, Mrs Harper turned back to reporters and said: "I just want to thank everybody who have done everything. Please, whoever has got her, please bring her home."

Mrs Harper is divorced from her daughter's father, Terry. She has another daughter, Claire, aged nine, and a son David, aged five.

Hundreds of local people have helped police to scour the town, near Leeds, but no trace of Sarah has been found.

Later, Mr Stainthorpe said he was now asking everyone in the Peel Street area of Morley to try to recall where they were last Wednesday evening when the girl was abducted.

He said neighbours should write down or make a mental note of their movements for the police who would call to interview them.

BBC aims for world TV service

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The BBC is to attempt to set up a television version of the World Service, producing one or two 30-minute news and current affairs programmes daily.

The service would be offered to foreign broadcasters and carried on BBC 2. Television Centre and External Services have been considering a television version of the popular foreign radio service for some time, and recently delivered a working party report to Mr Alasdair Milne, director general.

Mr Austen Kark, managing director of BBC external broadcasting, said: "We believe that the BBC is uniquely placed to provide such a service, given its unrivalled reputation worldwide together with the professional and editorial skills available in both External Services and the television service."

"We also believe that a start has to be made if Britain is to remain in the forefront of international broadcasting."

The project team is due to report in August, and has yet to decide how the service would be distributed or broadcast. The Independent Broadcasting Authority advertised yesterday for contractors for three television services by direct broadcast satellite. The would-be franchise holders must apply before August 29.

The winners are due to be announced before the end of the year. The IBA hopes the services will be on the air by 1990. The advertisements follow the failure of the BBC and ITV companies to launch a DBS venture.

Labour to control alcohol adverts

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

Alcohol and tobacco advertisements will face legal controls from a future Labour government, as will those that portray women in a "degrading" fashion.

The charter for consumers, launched at a Fulham by-election press conference yesterday, was immediately condemned by the advertising industry as an unnecessary "puritan charter".

The Labour document says that far too many advertisements give a false impression and carry little or no relevant information, with women portrayed too frequently in a degrading fashion.

It therefore proposes a statutory code of advertising practice to "replace the existing 'inadequate' self-regulatory system. The code would require advertisements to be truthful and seek to discourage 'the degrading or sexist portrayal of women'."

Advertisements deemed sexist would include those where women were used although they were not relevant to the product.

The Labour blueprint also proposes:

- A ban on tobacco advertising except where it is sold.
- Strict control of advertising of alcohol and medicines.
- Corrective advertising - with advertisers having to pay for space of equal prominence to an original advertisement found to be misleading.

Mr David Harris, of the Advertising Association, said yesterday that the industry had taken steps to halt the irrelevant use of scantily clad women in advertisements.

"Things are changing but advertisers have to keep a balance between not upsetting progressive, younger women and keeping faith with the older, traditional type of woman."

He predicted that if the Labour proposals come into force it would result in boring advertisements. "I would imagine you would have nothing but product shots and women would hardly appear. Advertisers might be tempted just not to put women in adverts for risk or ending up in court."

Miss Judie Lannon, of the J Walter Thompson advertising agency, said sexism was in the eye of the beholder and while feminist groups complained about the portrayal of women in the kitchen other women did not believe it was degrading. Most people did not find existing advertisements offensive to women.

Crossroads actor banned

Harry Nurmi, who plays an Australian barman in *Crossroads*, the independent television soap opera, was fined £200 and banned from driving for 15 months by Marlborough Street magistrates yesterday after he admitted driving while over the legal alcohol limit in Soho in February.

Nurmi, aged 25, of Oakland Road, Moseley, Birmingham, was also fined £50 for jumping bail and given an absolute discharge for driving without a licence. He said after the hearing that the ban would not affect his part in *Crossroads*.

Drivers saved

Royal Automobile Club patrons rescued more than 600,000 stranded drivers between last October and February, 36,000 more than in the same period a year ago, officials said yesterday.

Scepticism on comet virus idea

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The theory that viruses from comets are a source of unexplained epidemics of viral and bacterial illnesses had a mixed reaction yesterday.

The idea is proposed by two eminent astronomers, Professor Chandra Wickramasinghe and Sir Fred Hoyle, and an epidemiologist, Dr John Watkins.

An noticeable aspect of the reaction to such a startling theory was the unusual reluctance of fellow astronomers to give an opinion for the record.

But a leading authority on the structure of viruses, Dr John Skehel, head of virology at the National Institute for Medical Research, said: "I do not think anyone knows enough to say unequivocally what the origin (of viruses) is."

There is a strongly-held view that they may be genetic elements that originated from the break-up of cells.

Dr Skehel believed "it was an unnecessary additional proposal to make a jump into space to look for an explanation for some bouts of illness that lacked a classic epidemiological explanation".

Welsh job scheme 'is success'

By Gavin Bell

A scheme to reduce unemployment and increase participation in sport in Wales has been a success in its first year, according to an independent study.

The report on Operation Sport was published yesterday, only a few days after plans were announced for a similar, but larger, project in England.

The Welsh venture, run by the Sports Council with the Manpower Services Commission, and launched in March 1984, provided 171 places for unemployed people to take part in and supervise sports sessions.

Research by the Policy Studies Institute found that 59 out of 226 people employed in the scheme during its first year had found other jobs. Mr Malcolm Rigg, who produced the report, said: "It confirmed the view that if you have a job, it's easier to get another one."

On Monday the British Sports Council approved a scheme called Action Sport to be run on similar lines in London, the South-west and Yorkshire and Humberside. About 400 people will be employed initially.

Glasgow aims at tourist market

By Ronald Faux

There is a sporting chance that Glasgow will be among the top five tourist cities in the world in the 1990s, Mr Alan Devereux, chairman of the Scottish Tourist Board, said yesterday.

Opening a battered garden in the city, Mr Devereux, never one to make a negative statement, predicted that Glasgow would certainly rank in the top 10, perhaps even the top five.

He did not name the Glasgow's partners in the upper reaches of international tourism but he saw nothing odd about the prospect of the city rivaling Paris, Rome or Vienna.

Betteries are not alone among the city's gentler attractions and although

Glasgow's international reputation has been concentrated more on industrial dereliction, the city has cleared itself of that ugly label.

The tourist board thought Mr Devereux was underlining the rapid improvements made by the city. The Burrell art collection in Pollock Park last year attracted more than one million visitors and overtook Edinburgh Castle as the most popular tourist venue in Scotland.

Glasgow has at least six other museums and collections and it was the proud boast of the museum's department, in a paper dedicated to football, that more people visited them in a year than went to football matches.

Glasgow's other strengths are its new exhibition and conference centre, playing

host next year to the Garden Festival, an opera house and an immensely self-confident publicity campaign based on the slogan "Glasgow's Miles Better", which has stolen a march on its elegant neighbour, the capital city of Edinburgh.

Mr Devereux's forecast raised an eyebrow or two among Edinburgh's civic leaders. The Lord Provost, Dr John McKay, said that Glasgow had a bit to go in world terms, although he acknowledged the city to be among the top five Scottish attractions. Mr David Mowat, chief executive of Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce, thought the claim would inspire Edinburgh to compete.

The British Tourist Authority was sceptical about Mr Devereux's predictions.

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Mentally-ill children badly treated in some hospitals

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Some disturbed children are wrongly detained in solitary confinement in homes and others with serious psychiatric conditions are treated in adult hospital wards, according to a health service report published today.

It says that some hospital units for adolescents are "little more than a repository for difficult patients."

Teenagers suffering from mental illness, abnormal behaviour and related problems have been subjected to physical punishment and other harsh measures and many become the victims of "buck passing" within the health and social services.

The report, by the NHS Health Advisory Service, based on visits to health authorities last year, shows mutual suspicion and lack of trust between health, social services and education departments, where staff are often overworked and inadequately trained.

It calls for wide-ranging changes in the care, treatment and management of such children, aged between 12 and 19.

Adolescents requiring special care may suffer because

social workers with heavy caseloads give them low priority. "Social workers should respect the rights of young people to be consulted in decisions about their future," the report says.

"Infringement of individual liberty and legal rights can easily occur in the pursuit of treatment and containment."

A "general national uncertainty" has led to low status being attached to many adolescent services. The investigators found buildings in poor repair, decoration "institutional and shabby," equipment neglected and poor catering.

Lack of privacy for visits and telephone calls and observation without consent using two-way mirrors or video cameras, may all breach young people's rights, the report says.

Some disturbed adolescents find themselves placed in highly restrictive environments, subjected at times to extremely rigorous forms of treatment.

Bridges Over Troubled Waters (NHS Health Advisory Service, Sutherland House, 29-37 Brighton Road, Sutton, Surrey SM2 5AN; £2.70).

Problems with planning: 2 Warehouse is an historic farmhouse's neighbour

One of the unnerving features of the town and country planning system is the way it can creep up, unnoticed. Sometimes, as Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent, reports in the second of three articles, nothing can be done about it.

A photograph of Corner Farm shows a grassy lane and a rustic signpost with a great elm overshadowing everything else. The elm has long since disappeared, not through disease, but to make room for the bypasses and suburbs that now encircle the house.

"It seems a hell of a sight, too easy for developers to get their own way," Mr John Wall said as he contemplated the scene which has replaced that in the 50-year-old photograph. The house is now isolated, a relic of the rural history of Hasted Hernestead where Mr Wall's 500-year-old home is one of the oldest buildings.

Mr Wall, who lives in the house with his mother and Yobbo the cat, is bewildered by what the planning system is doing to his home.

"I was at home with flu one afternoon and I heard an unusual noise," he explained. "There were these guys leveling the ground off. I saw a chap at the end of the lane with a tape and another with a clipboard."

"He said a full planning application had gone in a month before."



Mr John Wall and heavy traffic passing his 500-year-old farmhouse (Photograph: Tim Bishop)



When Mr Wall learnt what had been applied for he registered an immediate objection, which was eventually overruled. The result of that rejection now looms behind his home. The old lane where he saw the tape and the clipboard 18 months ago has been turned into a wide approach road with its kerb

about 15 feet from his wall. At the end of the new road a warehouse the size of a large hangar is being built.

The warehouse is to be the main distribution centre in southern England for consumer goods that will have to be fetched and carried by convoys of lorries.

Mr Wall had hoped to have

a weight limit placed on the lorries or a new approach road built along the edge of a sports field, near-by, away from his home.

As a maintenance engineer on a low income he has no experience of planning law and too little money to begin a case against his council, but he believes he has a good case

against the warehouse because of the effect of past vibration from vehicles that used the old lane. The new lorries will be larger and closer to his home.

to fall out," Mr Wall said. "I am told it would all cost about ten grand to put right."

He is afraid that the house will fall apart when the lorries start their deliveries to the new warehouse later in the year. "It has absolutely no foundations at all. It is built on oak beams supported by a thin layer of rubble."

As the house is officially listed as a Grade Two building of historic interest, Mr Wall called in English Heritage, the quango which looks after the listing of such buildings on behalf of ministers.

The buildings are supposed to be protected against disruption and damage, but there is no widespread agreement about the impact of vibration from passing vehicles.

"I am afraid there is not a lot we can do with an isolated listed building that is not of national importance," English Heritage said.

Mr Wall said he then took legal advice, and was told that for a case to succeed he would probably have to wait for his home to collapse before he sued.

"We are sitting here minding our own business, and this comes along," Mr Wall said.

"I don't want publicity, but I feel that things like this should not happen to anybody."

Tomorrow: When pile-drivers arrive.

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Heathrow Airport Terminal 4, for which Taylor Woodrow Construction Limited are Management Contractors. Client: British Airports Authority. Designers: British Airports Authority Engineering Department, Scott Brownrigg & Turner Engineers, British Airports Authority Engineering Department, Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick & Partners, Mechanical: Donald Smith Seymour & Rowley Electrical, McAllen & Partners, Quantity Surveyors: British Airports Authority Quantity Surveying Department, Davis Bedford & Everett, Currie & Brown, Interior Design Consultants: Flick & Company.

NORTH SEA
MSV Seafire, operated by Seafar Marine Ltd, an associate company of Taylor Woodrow, on behalf of Shell UK Exploration and Production, operators for a joint venture between Shell and Esso in the UK area of the North Sea.

OMAN
New Headquarters for the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Architects: Ajouh Othman Associates, Oman, in association with Jefferson Stewart and Partners, London. Consulting Engineers: R. Throver Morgan, Oman. Mechanical and Electrical Services: Wright, Bowles and Partners, London. Contractor: Taylor Woodrow Tower II LLC, Oman.

CANADA
A 12 000 sq. ft. neighbourhood shopping plaza with 11 adjacent stores. Part of the prestigious Bridle Trail community development at L'Ansonville, north of Toronto. Architects: Fines, Gales, McGowan, Easton. Main Contractor: Monarch Construction Ltd.

SUFFOLK
Design and management by Taylor Woodrow Construction Ltd of a paid-up complex for British Seazer plc at Barry St. Edmunds. Cost Control and Planning: Taylor Woodrow Management and Engineering Ltd. Topographical Survey: Torrensarch Ltd.

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St Francis Place, a 410 unit rental apartment project by Taylor Woodrow of San Francisco Inc. now under construction in downtown San Francisco. Only 10 minutes walk from the financial district, and including retail, restaurant and office facilities. Partners: The Landlord Property Company.

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Airlines cut cost of flights to US

By Michael Baily, Transport Editor

Cuts of more than £70 are being offered in the cost of flights across the Atlantic during the next two months, in the wake of sliding oil prices.

British Airways and British Caledonian are each offering a £288 "late saver" return to New York, compared with a normal economy return of £362, and similar discounts are being offered by airlines in the United States until the end of May.

The £288 fare is £70 less than the cheapest fare this time last year. British Caledonian said yesterday that weaker oil prices, available capacity, and a strong pound made this an attractive time to visit the US.

The cut-price airlines, Virgin Atlantic and People Express, are offering returns of £258 (same-day booking) and £266 respectively.

A further discount of about

£100 which was to have been offered on normal eastbound Atlantic fares, was abandoned yesterday after the British and US aviation bodies had refused to authorize it.

British Airways has been told by the Chinese government to stop carrying passengers between Hong Kong and Peking, after giving permission to Cathay Pacific to operate the route. BA will continue to operate its weekly London-Hong Kong-Peking service but without local passengers between the latter cities.

Highland Express, which plans to operate cheap flights from Scotland to North America, announced yesterday that it was postponing its launch date until next spring.

Mr Randolph Fields, its chairman, said: "Both the US and Canadian markets show a steep drop in bookings for this coming summer."

Teacher to retire over beating

A teacher who was severely reprimanded for slapping a pupil on a school holiday trip is leaving the profession early because he claims his position has been made intolerable.

Mr Ken Dorrington, aged 59, a geography master, is to leave Ferndale Comprehensive School, Mid Glamorgan, in July, five years before normal retirement age.

He made his decision known yesterday after it was disclosed that Mid Glamorgan Education Authority had made a £700 out-of-court award to a former pupil, Jeffrey Davies, now aged 15, after the incident during a visit to Majorca two years ago.

The complaint was backed by the Society of Teachers Opposed to Physical Punishment.

The boy claimed he was hit about 15 times when mistakenly thought to be misbehaving. But Mr Dorrington of Tonypandy, Mid Glamorgan, claimed he slapped the teenager fewer blows and twice apologized.

Man went berserk in aircraft

Passengers panicked when a man went berserk on board an aircraft flying between Manchester and Glasgow and tried to open the emergency exit and a rear door, a court was told on Tuesday.

The man was subdued after a struggle with his police escort who had allowed him free of handcuffs to go to the lavatory.

At Paisley Sheriff Court, John Gallacher, aged 36, admitted acting recklessly and endangering an aircraft and passengers. He also admitted assaulting a policeman, an air hostess and a passenger.

He was jailed for three months and fined £500.

The court was told that Gallacher, who was a drug-taker, had been taken into custody after being found unconscious by the roadside between Chester and his mother's home in Wallasey.

He was being taken to Glasgow to face a charge at Kilmarnock Sheriff Court when the incident occurred.

British poultry leads rise in food exports

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

British food and drink exports last year were worth £4.1 billion, according to customs and excise figures collated by Food from Britain, the marketing organization.

Sales abroad rose by 9 per cent, discounting a drop in cereal exports because of the exceptionally poor harvest. Mr Brian Law, Food from Britain's chief executive said.

The fastest growing categories were poultry (up by 40 per cent), beer (17 per cent), cakes, biscuits and confectionery (16 per cent), and smoked fish (15 per cent). The most important markets were

France, worth £517 million (up by 9 per cent); the United States, £496 million (up 10 per cent); the Benelux countries, £427 million (down 4 per cent) and West Germany, £342 million (up 23 per cent).

Frozen chickens from France, Denmark and West Germany have been found to fall short of EEC regulations, according to the British Chicken

Information Service. Independent tests show substantial evidence of bruising and broken limbs in products reputed to be Grade A, and giblet packs contained lumps of fat.

Robber filmed again

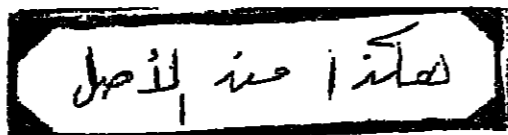
A man shown robbing a building society office in Sheffield on *Crimewatch* on BBC 1 last week has struck again at a building society near by.

The man, who says he has a gun in his plastic bag, was filmed again by a video cam-

era on his latest raid, on Tuesday.

The police have released photographs, but he was wearing a mask.

The robber is believed to have taken more than £9,000 in six robberies in Yorkshire.



Vital clue of missing Calvi briefcase found by Italian MP

One of the world's most sought-after briefcases, the voluminous black bag with the gold initials RC which belonged to the late Roberto Calvi, has reappeared here in the possession of a right-wing parliamentarian.

The briefcase was last known to have been taken by Calvi on the eve of the spectacular collapse of his Banco Ambrosiano when he fled to London in June 1982. A few days later his body was found hanging under Blackfriars Bridge.

But the famed briefcase, said at the time to be bulging with secrets, with safe deposit keys and material useful for blackmail, was nowhere to be found.

Its contents were considered likely to throw light on whether Calvi committed suicide or was murdered. It was also thought to contain documents dealing with his association with Michele Sindona, the other famous Italian bankrupt whose death in a high-security

prison here on March 20 is ascribed to cyanide poisoning.

Senator Giorgio Pisano, of the right-wing Italian Social Movement, said on Tuesday night that he had bought the briefcase from two unidentified persons for 50 million lire (£23,000). He allowed it to be shown on television before turning it over to the investigators.

Its contents were emptied under the cameras. They consisted of 23 keys, two Nicaraguan diplomatic passports, apparently for the use of Calvi and his wife, a certificate of guarantee for a diamond, a postcard of Milan Cathedral, some family photographs and some letters, three of which were addressed to prelates at the Vatican.

Two of them, addressed to Cardinal Pietro Palazzini, are said to contain Calvi's last pleas for help. The cardinal is head of the Sacred Congregation, which deals with the canonization of saints.

Three men who accompanied Calvi on his flight to London took part in the television programme. Signor Flavio Carbone and his assistant, Signor Emilio Pellicani, with Signor Silvano Vittor, described as a retired smuggler, arranged Calvi's escape by way of Trieste, Yugoslavia and Austria.

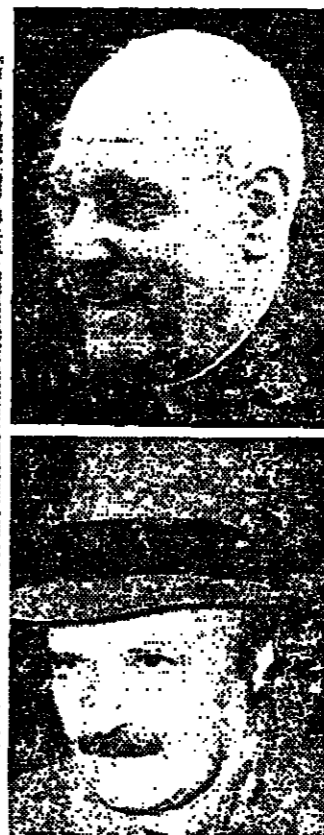
Signor Carbone confirmed that the briefcase was Calvi's and that the dead banker had it with him throughout their journey and during his stay in London.

Senator Pisano takes a different view. He has followed Calvi's career in detail because he was a member of the commission of inquiry into the Masonic lodge known as P2, to which both Calvi and Sindona belonged.

"I think it never got to London," he said. "It never went further than Yugoslavia and Austria. And someone probably took some things out of it."



Calvi's briefcase (left) and Monsignor Paul Marcinkus (top), head of the Vatican bank to which Calvi (below) went for help.



Protest at carrier near Rock

By Nicholas Ashford
Diplomatic Correspondent

Britain protested formally to Spain yesterday about an incident in which Spain's only aircraft carrier violated the territorial waters of Gibraltar.

But British officials are playing down the seriousness of the incident to prevent souring relations between London and Madrid on the eve of King Juan Carlos's state visit this month.

The incident took place on the night of March 20-21. British officials said that the 16,000-tonne Dedalo, flagship of the Spanish Navy, entered Gibraltar's waters without notification or permission and launched two helicopters into Gibraltar's airspace.

This is considered particularly dangerous in view of the carrier's proximity to Gibraltar airport, though minor incursions are not unusual.

The violation occurred in Algeciras Bay, west of Gibraltar. The Dedalo crossed the "median line" marking the divide between Gibraltar and Spanish waters west of Europa Point, at the southern tip of the peninsula, then sailed north-east towards Gibraltar airport before turning back into Spanish waters north of the end of the runway.

At one stage it was said to be just a mile from the runway. British officials yesterday dismissed as fanciful reports that Spanish Navy "rebels" had sailed the ship deliberately into Gibraltar's waters in order to wreck the royal visit.

Britain is seeking a full explanation from Madrid.

MADRID: The Spanish Government has immediately rejected Britain's protest, which was handed over to the Foreign Ministry here yesterday (Richard Wigg writes).

The fact that King Juan Carlos is soon to make the first Spanish state visit to Britain for more than 30 years explains why the protest was made only at senior official level, and not by the British Ambassador, Lord Nicholas Gordon Lennox.

Berlin's ruling party admits hiring extremists for polls

By Herr Heinrich Lummer, the Christian Democrat deputy mayor of West Berlin, has admitted giving money from party funds to right-wing extremists.

It is alleged that in return the extremists, among other jobs for Herr Lummer and his party, posted material over Social Democrat posters in an election campaign.

Christian Democrat politicians in Bonn are hoping that this is the most serious activity for which the money was used. They will then be able to pass it all off as the usual mischievous behaviour expected at election times.

Since Chancellor Kohl is being investigated for alleged false testimony - to do with money - his party is extremely worried about being thought of as the party of corruption.

West Berlin is already regarded by most West Germans as an inherently corrupt city. In the 30 years in which the

From Frank Johnson
Bonn

Social Democrats tended to win elections in the city - providing the governing mayor, the district mayors and a majority on the Senate (city council) - numerous politicians and party officials were forced to resign for accepting bribes, either for themselves or for party funds.

The Christian Democrats came to power in the city at the turn of the decade, promising to cleanse it of such activities. But many of their officials have been indicted for taking bribes, or accused of similar offences. These include the youthful mayor, Herr Eberhard Diepgen, although the accusations against him have not been proved.

Last year the Hamburg weekly Die Zeit published a huge list of West Berlin officials under investigation. The scandals were about mon-

ey, power and sex (the toleration of illegal brothels).

All that was lacking was neo-Nazism. This has now been supplied by Herr Lummer. He gave money to the "Action Community of June 17" - June 17, 1953, being the date of the East Berlin uprising against the Communists.

Herr Lummer says the money came from Christian Democrat funds and was intended to stop a right-wing party from contesting a local election and thus splitting the conservative vote.

It is a measure of the tone of West Berlin public life that he seems to see this admission as a defence. Herr Lummer's critics, some of whom are in his own party and in its ally the Free Democratic Party, think that the explanation could be more sinister. They say he has always been attracted to the radical right.

Flu and age profit France's pariahs

By Diana Geddes, Paris

By a quirk of fate, the first session of the eighth National Assembly of the Fifth French Republic was opened yesterday with a member of the extreme-right National Front - the pariah of the new Parliament - occupying the President's chair.

M. Marcel Dassault, aged 94, founder of the aerospace company of the same name, who, as the oldest member, was to have taken up his right to preside over the opening session and to give the inaugural speech, sent a message at the last moment to say that he was still suffering from "a bad flu" and would be unable to attend.

His place was, therefore, taken by the next oldest member, M. Edouard Fréderic-Dupont, aged 83, former affiliated member of the Gaullist RPR parliamentary

group and now one of the 35 National Front deputies who have entered Parliament for the first time, and whose attitude to the new right-wing government constitutes one of the many "unknowns".

M. Fréderic-Dupont, who read out M. Dassault's speech to a packed House, including M. Jacques Chirac, the new Prime Minister, remained in the President's chair until the election of the new President of the Assembly, M. Jacques Chaban-Delmas, aged 71, former Gaullist Prime Minister.

The session was off to a rowdy start when a National Front deputy sprang to his feet to protest against the presence of 10 deputies whose election was still being contested, while the Communists and other deputies tried to drown him in a barrage of abuse and banging of desk lids.

EEC calls for urgent cash talks

Brussels - The EEC Commission called yesterday for urgent talks with the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament after issuing a warning that the Community is running out of cash for social and regional spending (Richard Owen writes).

Mr Henning Christophersen, the budget commissioner, said that supplementary budgets were also needed because of the decline of the dollar.

A supplementary budget would guarantee the payment of about £300 million.

Mr Grigoris Varris, commissioner for structural funds, said the social fund would run out in October and the regional fund in November because the Council and Parliament had failed to respect the balance between commitments and appropriations.

Zhivkov calls for modern style

Sofia (Reuters) - Mr Todor Zhivkov, the veteran Bulgarian leader, opened a congress of his ruling Communist Party here yesterday with a call for a new style of management to bring advanced technology to the Balkan state's economy.

Echoing the self-critical approach adopted at last month's Soviet party congress in Moscow, Mr Zhivkov blamed managers for covering up weaknesses and failures, and attacked a rising tide of absenteeism, lack of order and indiscipline.

Bangui deaths rise to 35

Paris (AP) - Four people injured when a French Jaguar fighter jet crashed into a school house in Bangui, capital of the Central African Republic, have died in a French hospital.

They bring to 35 the number of people killed in the accident on March 27.

Wrong Caine

Rouen (AFP) - Reports that British actor Michael Caine and his sister had been involved in a car crash here Friday were based on mistaken identity by local police, they said here.

Bush tour

Vice-President George Bush begins a four-nation tour of the Middle East with the Iraq war a key issue on his agenda. Gulf helipad, page 9

Turks protest

Rome - Mr Musa Celebi and Mr Omer Bagci, the Turks acquitted on Saturday on charges of having conspired to murder the Pope, have protested about having to remain here without means of support until their appeals are heard.

Sihanouk ill

Peking (Reuters) - Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of the anti-Vietnamese Kampuchean guerrilla coalition, has serious health problems including high cholesterol and kidney trouble, according to his doctor.

Airport fine

Honiara (Reuters) - The former Prime Minister of the Solomon Islands, Mr Solomon Mamaloni, has been fined £142 for disorderly conduct, including carrying a lit cigarette near an aircraft being refuelled, at the country's international airport.

Baton theft

Prague (AP) - Police are searching for the thief who stole the baton of the famous Czech composer Smetana from Prague museum.

Honest Bill

Montreal (AP) - Honesty paid for Mr William Murphy, unemployed and on welfare, when he returned a lost lottery ticket worth the equivalent of more than \$5 million and was given more than \$850,000 as a reward.

Zimbabwe customs men freed

From Jan Raath
Harare

Two senior customs officers were freed on the orders of the Supreme Court here yesterday after 41 days of custody that courts have consistently rejected as illegal.

On only one other occasion in Zimbabwe's six year history has the judiciary seen orders for the release of political prisoners implemented.

Mr Kenneth Harper, aged 43, the Controller of Customs and Excise, and Mr John Austin, aged 36, the Chief Customs Investigation Officer, were held first in detention under state of emergency laws, and then on remand under Zimbabwe's criminal code on allegations they had "spied" for South Africa.

Affidavits and statements in the courts in the numerous hearings have stated that the two were seized from their homes on February 22 solely on the wishes of Mr Emmerson Mnangagwa, the Minister of State for National Security.

Lawyers representing the two men have waged the most vigorous opposition seen in courts here against Zimbabwe's laws of detention without trial. Human rights organisations charge that the broad scope of the laws are often abused by regular police and the Central Intelligence Organisation.

How to visit the Khyber

From Michael Hamlyn
Islamabad

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, flew into Islamabad last night and said his main purpose in being here was "to stand at Pakistan's north-west frontier and affirm once again Britain's support of the Pakistan position in the face of the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan".

Sir Geoffrey will in fact go to the Khyber Pass and at Michni Point gaze down into Afghanistan tomorrow.

He will visit a refugee camp and meet Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani, the leader of the fundamentalist Jamiat-Islami group of Mujahidin rebels.

The professor chairs the seven-party alliance of moderate and fundamentalist resistance groups.

In his meeting today with Pakistan's Foreign Minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, Sir Geoffrey will also be anxious to find out Pakistan's position on the round of talks with the special representative of the UN deputy Secretary-General, Señor Diego Cordovez, who is shuttling between Kabul, Islamabad and New York in an effort to get peace negotiations going again.

Señor Cordovez is reported as having obtained a timetable for withdrawal of Soviet troops, but the stumbling block now is over the principle of simultaneity.

Diplomat set free after hostage ordeal

Ottawa - The Vice-Consul at the Bahamas High Commission here, Mrs Janet Rahming, aged 33, was released unharmed yesterday after being held hostage overnight by a gunman.

Her captor, armed with a collection of weapons, bargained with police for the release of a convict and for an unused Ottawa fire station to be turned over to the needy.

It was not immediately known if his demands were met.

Most black pupils return to school

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

Large numbers of black pupils returned to school yesterday after the decision taken at a conference of the National Education Crisis Committee in Natal at the weekend to call an indefinite halt to class boycotts.

Some observers, however, felt it was still too early to forecast whether attendance would be maintained. In some parts of the country, particularly in the Cape Town area, the back-to-school turnout was low.

The best school turnout was reported in townships in the Durban area where the conference was held. Principals and teachers said classes were almost full.

In the Western Cape, however, Mr Piet Scheepers, local director of the Department of Education, admitted the turnout was below expectations. Teachers blamed the response on meetings held at the week-

Nasa confirms finding shuttle rocket booster

From Mohsen Ali, Washington

A large piece of wreckage pulled from the Atlantic a fortnight ago is part of the shuttle Challenger's right solid fuel rocket booster, the main suspect in the explosion which killed the crew of seven just after takeoff on January 20, a Nasa spokesman said.

This was the first confirmation that the naval salvage team had recovered a key part of the right booster rocket. The spokesman said the 875lb fragment contained part of the joint suspected in the explosion but it came from the opposite side of the area where flames were seen soon after blast-off.

The cord was supposed to pull the tarpaulin cover off the missile as it was released from a B-52 bomber. However, the cover stayed on, denying oxygen to the missile motors.

Silence on missing teachers

By Our Foreign Staff

Beirut - Efforts to find two British teachers missing in Beirut produced no clues yesterday, increasing fears that they may have been kidnapped.

A British Embassy spokesman said contact had been made "with various parties" to determine whether they have been abducted, but "we have nothing solid so far".

Mr Leigh Douglas, aged 34, a political science teacher at the American University of Beirut, and Mr Philip Padfield, aged 40, director of Beirut's International Language Centre, were last seen on Friday at the Back Street, one of the few public houses still functioning in the city's Muslim sector.

Mr Douglas, of Stalham, Norfolk, has lived in Beirut for eight years and Mr Padfield, of Bideford, Devon, for 13 years. They dined together on Friday night and went to Back Street for a nightcap. "They left about midnight," a friend said, "and no one has seen them since."

On Saturday and Sunday, Easter sell-wishers left messages at their respective apartments, but they were unanswered. The management of Mr Padfield's centre, known as the Rashdeen school, reported his disappearance on Sunday. The alarm was sounded when Mr Douglas failed to show up at classes on Tuesday.

None of the militias controlling west Beirut has hinted what could have happened to the teachers, and no underground organisation has yet claimed any abductions.

At least six other Britons were kidnapped in west Beirut last year. One of them, Mr

Fears grow for Britons as French quit Lebanon

Dennis Hill, an English teacher at the American University, was found shot dead on May 29. Four others, including two women, were released by their captors.

Mr Alec Collett, aged 64, a writer working with the United Nations, is still being held hostage.

The father of Mr Padfield, said yesterday his son would not deliberately put his life in peril as a member of a "dangerous dining club". One report claimed that he and Mr Douglas had gone to a nightclub in the Muslim sector for a "dangerous night out".

Mr Ralph Padfield, a retired farmer, said at his home in Bideford that his son was a "quiet lad" who knew exactly where to go safely and where not to go in Beirut.

He had returned to England for his mother's funeral last

Silence on missing teachers

men last year - released after two weeks as captives of a Shia Muslim group and the murder of a British university lecturer who may have been resisting a kidnapping when he was shot in a car park.

And there was Alec Collett, the freelance writer with the United Nations who was abducted a year ago and is in the hands of Abu Nidal's extremist Palestinian group.

Those who "know the ropes" - or thought they did until Tuesday - are a mixed bag. Some are British women who married Lebanese citizens and feel more at home in Hamra Street than they would in the Edgware Road.

One such lady lives in my own block of flats in Beirut, a middle-aged woman with a tough Yorkshire accent who stays assiduously indoors when the neighbourhood comes under shellfire, but each morning feeds every stray cat and dog in the street.

A few British men who married Lebanese women have not been home for years: one died in the fierce street fighting of February 1984, his body found later by British Embassy officials amid the rubble of his flat.

Yet because Americans and French citizens were the principal targets for Lebanese kidnappers, the few Britons left in the city felt somehow immune from abduction.

When US and French forces took action against Muslim militias during the mission of the multinational force to Beirut, Britain's 100-strong contingent never fired a shot in

Paris insists there is no change in policy

From Diana Geddes, Paris

France's decision to withdraw its 45 observers from Beirut "in no way signifies a change in French policy in Lebanon", M. Alain Juppé, the government spokesman, said after yesterday's Cabinet meeting.

"The withdrawal is the result of an objective establishment of the facts: Our observers are no longer able to accomplish their mission, namely to ensure the respect of the ceasefire between the various Lebanese factions," he said, adding that the "different parties concerned" had expressed the wish that the observers should leave.

The close relationship between France and Lebanon dates back to 1860 when France was made responsible for re-establishing order in Lebanon after the massacre of 22,000 Christians by the Druze.

In 1920, Lebanon was made a French mandated territory and was governed by France until independence in 1943. The last French troops were evacuated in 1946, but a "special relationship" between the two countries continued.

1978: 700 French troops return to Lebanon as part of the 4,000-strong United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (Unifil); 1,400 French soldiers are still serving with Unifil in the south of the country.

April 15, 1982: Two French diplomats killed.

May 24, 1982: French Embassy attacked with a car bomb - 10 dead, 21 injured.

August 18, 1982: 800 French soldiers sent to Beirut as part of the multinational force to supervise the withdrawal of

Paris insists there is no change in policy

From Diana Geddes, Paris

25,000 supporters of the PLO leader, Yasser Arafat. Mission ends September 13, 1982.

September 24, 1982: New multinational security force, totalling 3,300 men, sent to Beirut after the Sabra and Chatila massacres, including 1,100 French soldiers.

October 23, 1983: 58 French paratroops and 241 US Marines killed in separate suicide car bomb attacks.

November 17, 1983: French planes bomb Shia Muslim training camp near Baalbek.

March 31, 1984: Last members of French contingent of the multinational force leave Beirut a month after the evacuation of the American troops. Total French losses over preceding 18 months: 88 dead.

March 1984: French observer mission sent to Beirut at the request of President Gemayel to oversee ceasefire.

March 22, 1985: Two French diplomats, Marcel Carton and Marcel Fontaine, kidnapped by Shia Muslim extremists in Beirut; still being held.

May 22, 1985: Two more French hostages, Michel Senzal, a sociologist, and Jean-Paul Kaufmann, a journalist, seized. Senzal's "execution" was subsequently announced by the Islamic Jihad on March 10, 1986; Kaufmann still being held.

March 14, 1986: Four-man French television crew held in Beirut; still being seized hostage.

March 13, 1986: Seventh member of French observer mission killed in an ambush.

April 1, 1986: Decision to withdraw remaining 45 members of observer mission.



Mr Leigh Douglas and Mr Philip Padfield, who were last seen in Beirut on Friday night and are feared kidnapped.

waiting for news of him. "We are extremely anxious," his retired father, Mr Edgar Douglas, said. "I have to think he was probably kidnapped because he wasn't the type to just disappear."

The family of Mr Douglas in Norfolk yesterday were

anger. So there is no one with a score to settle against the British from that dark period of Lebanese history. But Britain could not escape an entanglement with Lebanon. Mrs Margaret Thatcher's decision to meet West Bank Palestine Liberation Organization supporters in London last year - a rendezvous that never took place - angered anti-Arafat Palestinian groups in Lebanon and Syria.

Far more serious in its implications was the conviction and imprisonment of those members of Abu Nidal's group who tried to assassinate the Israeli Ambassador to London, Mr Shlomo Argov, in 1982. Mr Collett is now being held in Sidon as a hostage for their release, a condition

which the Foreign Office has refused to contemplate.

Appeals by Sir John for Mr Collett's release have been met only by warnings from his captors that his health is in danger and that Britain should send 10 kidney dialysis machines to hospitals in southern Lebanon, one of which would be used to treat him.

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شركة إمبريال

Salvador bombs sweep guerrillas from their volcano fortress

From John Carlin, Apopa, El Salvador

Long a military bastion and symbol of the Salvadorean guerrillas' revolutionary resilience, El Salvador's most rugged mountain, Guazapa volcano, has fallen into government hands, the Army's most significant success since President Duarte took office in June 1984.

Just 15 miles north of the capital, San Salvador, Guazapa volcano is a natural fortress full of caves and deep ravines, an irritant to the Army and constant reminder, until very recently, that it can never drop its guard against the 6,000 guerrillas of the left-wing Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN).

After a siege which lasted six years — as long as the civil war itself — the American-supplied air power of the Salvadorean military finally proved too much for the bomb-blasted guerrillas.

They fled north last month to the mountains of Chalatenango province, as their smoken-checked camp-followers — mainly undernourished children, their mothers and sturdy grandparents — were literally rounded

up by the Army, put into helicopters and deposited in a refugee camp near the town of Apopa, under the shadow of the now eerily vacant volcano. For the soldiers, it was 13th time lucky. On 12 previous occasions they had tried and failed to evacuate the volcano, both a jumping-off point for



Attacks on the capital and logistical centre in the heart of El Salvador for the marauding bands of the FMLN.

Throughout January and part of February the Salvadorean Air Force, by far the biggest in Central America, rained helicopter bullets and dropped hundreds of thousands of pounds of bombs on the volcano.

For days at a time the guerrillas and their supporters took refuge in dark underground bomb shelters carved out of the mountainside.

Simultaneously, soldiers, a total of 5,000, would make their way up the volcano in a long-planned attack codenamed "Operation Phoenix", co-ordinated by American military advisers and the Army High Command.

"We were 14 days underground. The planes were dropping so many bombs we couldn't get out, not even once, to fetch food or water," Señora Tomasa Perez, aged 24, mother of four bloated little children, said.

Señora Perez, who said the Army set fire to her home, is one of more than 1,000 people who in recent weeks have been swelling what has become known as the Calle Real (Royal Road) refugee camp near Apopa.

Two American nuns run the camp, which held barely 200 of El Salvador's 500,000 refugees in December and is now both haven and jail to more than 1,000 ragged guerrilla sympathizers.

"We're safe from the bombs here," a 50-year-old father of six said, "and they feed us well. But we're also prisoners. If we try and get back to Guazapa the Army has told us we'll be killed."



Mr Caspar Weinberger, the US Secretary of Defence, looks into North Korea through binoculars from a South Korean guard post at Songhak.

two-day security meeting, yesterday assured his South Korean counterpart, Mr Lee Ki Baek, that the US would keep its forces in South Korea as long as Seoul needed them.

The two defence chiefs also agreed their countries would intensify joint military exercises over the next few years: a period which Mr Lee considers "critical".

Mexico gets its man

Mexico City — The most wanted man in Mexico, General Arturo Durazo, the capital's former police chief, arrived here yesterday after US authorities ordered his deportation from a Los Angeles jail to face charges of extortion, illegal possession of weapons and probably murder (John Carlin writes).

General Durazo, police chief from 1976 to 1982, was captured by the FBI in Puerto Rico two years ago and held in the US pending an extradition request from Mexico, which was granted on Tuesday.

A symbol of the corruption of the six-year administration of former President José López Portillo, his childhood friend and the man who appointed him police chief, he retired in 1982, colossally rich.

He has been accused of ordering several murders, heading a drug ring with international links and extorting millions of pounds.

With Mexicans thirsty for revenge, every detail of his extradition case in Los Angeles provoked headlines.

General Durazo has often said he feared for his life on return to Mexico. He arrived before dawn from Santiago yesterday and was transferred to a maximum security prison in the Mexican capital pending a court appearance.

US pledge to return 'millions' Manila recovers titles to Marcos Philippines land

From Keith Dalton, Manila

when he fled to Hawaii. US authorities provided Mr Salonga with copies of the documents last month.

The 19 land titles, covering properties in Manila and provincial areas, were handed to Mr Ramon Diaz, another commission member, by Mr Jose Campos, a former business associate of Mr Marcos.

Mr Campos fled to Canada before the revolt and last week surrendered the titles to Mr Diaz in Vancouver. He admitted he was Mr Marcos's "front man" and had set up four dummy property companies for the former president's land holdings.

The commission has told eight visiting Japanese parliamentarians that Mr Marcos is also suspected of having systematically syphoned off \$500 million in official Japanese aid during his 20 years in power.

Mr Diaz said the cost of projects under the Japan Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund were believed to have been inflated by as much as 20 per cent to cover a commission paid to Mr Marcos.

Meanwhile, thousands of Filipinos employed at five American military installations yesterday returned to work after a 12-day strike.

Several thousand defiant workers, however, have rejected the new wage agreement and are continuing to barricade Subic Bay naval base.



Mr Salonga, confident of recovering millions

UN urged to open files on Waldheim

From Zoriana Pysariwsky New York

Jewish organizations and New York legislators have called on the United Nations to open secret files which they claim hold the key to unravelling the full story about Dr Kurt Waldheim, the former UN Secretary-General, who is accused of concealing his Nazi past.

The request came as new evidence was released by the World Jewish Congress purporting to show that he participated in operations against Yugoslav partisans in West Bosnia and the resistance movement in Greece, including Mr George Papandreou, the former Greek Prime Minister and father of Mr Andreas Papandreou, the present prime minister.

There is pressure on the Reagan Administration for members of Congress to determine whether Dr Waldheim should be barred from entering the US.

His file is one of 40,000 on war criminals, suspects and witnesses compiled by the UN War Crimes Commission between 1943 and 1948.

In a letter to Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the UN Secretary-General, four Jewish organizations asked that the UN files on Dr Waldheim be made public and that he be stripped of all UN honours.

Only three files have been made public by the UN: Adolf Eichmann's, which was given to Israel, and those on Josef Mengele and Klaus Barbie, requested by the US.

35 held after 'anarchist' riot in Athens

Athens — Greek police arrested 35 youths yesterday after left-wing extremists rioted in central Athens, hurling fire bombs at police guarding the Socialist party headquarters (Mario Modiano writes).

About 300 youths, described by police as anarchists, said they were protesting against the shooting of a comrade during a police raid on a derelict house.

They set fire to a police van, bombed and gutted a bank, and smashed shop windows.

3 Kenyans jailed for 'sedition'

Nairobi — Three Kenyans were jailed here yesterday after admitting charges of possessing seditious publications — anti-government leaflets (Charles Harrison writes).

Two others were imprisoned last week on charges that they knew that a group of Kenyans were producing seditious publications, but failed to inform the authorities.

A lecturer, Joseph Manje, and an accountant, Geoffrey Maina, were jailed yesterday for five years and a farmer, Peter Kihara, was given a four-year sentence.

Civil servants' dispute paralyzes Helsinki

From Olli Kivinen, Helsinki

Rail and air traffic in the Helsinki area were paralysed yesterday when civil servants and state employees began the first phase of a pay strike.

Flights were diverted to Turku and Tampere, both about 100 miles away, and passengers were taken to and from by bus. Trains stopped outside the capital and mail deliveries as well as pensions and other post office payments were affected.

For the first time in Finnish history the President's office is on strike, and President Koivisto and his wife have had to move from the official palace to government guest rooms in a leading hotel.

Only 15,000 union members are on strike, but on April 16 the stoppage will become national, it is quite possible that the strike will be prolonged, he the civil servants are demanding a rise of about 6 per cent, plus £100 a month.

STOCKHOLM: Sweden yesterday moved closer to an industrial confrontation likely to bring private industry to a standstill (Christopher Mosey writes).

The Federation of Salaried Employees in Industry and Services (PTK) announced a strike of 50,000 white-collar workers for next Wednesday in response to a lockout of 300,000 men by the Swedish Employers' Confederation.

PTK is seeking a pay increase dated from January 1.

Pilots' threat: The Swedish air force may lose a fifth of its 500 pilots, who are threatening to resign by December because of low pay (Reuters reports).

Murrow. The man who broke McCarthy's grip on America.

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And watch because it is another fine production from Television South, a company whose networked programmes are also making television history.

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LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME



We talk and you listen, no. You talk and we listen, yes.



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Tangled Lebanese loyalties herald bloodiest battles

Hezbollah key to fundamentalist strife

By Robert Fisk, Middle East Correspondent

The Druze are re-arming. In the past few days Kalashnikovs, Walther pistols and other weapons and ammunition recently bought in Vienna, have been dispersed liberally to the street veterans of Raouche and Hamra. Even Walid Jumblat's annual military parade of old T-54 tanks through the ruined streets of Damour was called off, in case they were needed in Beirut. There was no secret about it, for everyone in the Lebanese capital knows, or thinks he knows, what is coming: the most savage street battles in years between the Druze, with their communist and Sunni Muslim allies, and the Shia Muslim forces represented by Nabih Berri's Amal movement.

In reality the conflict will represent a much more sinister and critical struggle as Syria urges its most loyal militia allies in west Beirut to tear into the forces of the powerful Hezbollah, which has not only eclipsed the declining Amal but now holds sway over much of the city's Muslim sector, mocking even Syria's attempts to impose its will on the country.

So grave has the crisis become that President Assad of Syria is said to have raised it personally with the Soviet leadership during a visit to Moscow he reportedly made last Thursday.

Hezbollah key to unfolding drama

To the West, and to many Arab states, the Hezbollah is a frightening phenomenon, an extreme pro-Islamic movement that is imposing Islamic law in large areas of Lebanon. Kidnapping westerners, staging suicide attacks on Israeli occupation troops and executing "agents" in Beirut. The organizations that exist within it - Islamic Jihad, for example, which holds at least four Americans and seven Frenchmen captive - are invariably described by western news agencies as secretive or shadowy. There is some truth in these descriptions: but the real story of the Hezbollah, its disputes with rival groups in Lebanon, the growth of its



Centre-stage players in Lebanon's unfolding tragedy: President Assad of Syria, Mr Nabih Berri, the Shia Amal leader, and Ayatollah Khomeini of Iran.

power and Iranian funding, provide an essential insight into the drama now unfolding. Hezbollah's roots are twined not only around the foundations of the Iranian revolution but the growth of the Iraqi opposition Daawa party. Lebanese writers now trace its origins to a meeting in the Iraqi city of Najaf in 1969 where the idea of a Shia revolution in Lebanon was first advanced. A number of Shia leaders and clergymen who attended have since become household names in Lebanon and in the files of western intelligence agencies. The discussions took place at the home of Muhammad Bakr Sadr, an Iranian ayatollah and close friend of Ayatollah Khomeini.

Sitting beside Muhammad Bakr was the Iranian imam, Monssa Sadr, already well known as a teacher among the rural poor east of the Lebanese

city of Tyre, and Sabhi Tofaili, a Shia cleric who now lives in the Lebanese town of Baasrybek. Muhammad Bakr told Monssa Sadr to return to Tyre and to found groups for Islamic indoctrination. Two other Shia figures, Muhammad Hossein Fadallah and Mehdi Shamseddin, were sent to Lebanon to establish colleges in Beirut. Monssa Sadr, who now led a Lebanese "Shia Higher Council", in his way, a constitutionalist, demanding equality for Lebanon's growing Shia population within the existing structure of a Christian-dominated government. The influence of the Daawa, which opposed Christian government for Muslims, was curbed only when Sadr founded the "Lebanese Resistance Brigades", whose Arabic name produced the acronym Amal. Sadr disappeared in Libya

Shia representative movement in Lebanon, its voice projected in Iran by its Tehran representative, Sheikh Ibrahim al-Amine.

But at the height of Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982, Amal's secular, westernized leader, Berri, agreed to join a Lebanese "government of national salvation" which was obliged to negotiate with the Americans for an Israeli withdrawal.

In Iran, al-Amine denounced Berri while Berri's deputy, Hussein Monssawi, left Beirut to found a rival Amal movement in Baasrybek. Their followers borrowed the name used the previous year by those Iranians opposed to Abolhassan Bani-Sadr's presidency in Tehran - Hezbollah, the Party of God.

It was they whom the CIA believed were behind the bombing of the US marine base in Beirut in October 1983 and whom Washington also suspects are holding most of the western hostages kidnapped in Lebanon.

Since 1982, Iran has ceased to deal with Amal - which is why Mr Berri has recently been ineffective in securing the hostages' release: Berri's "takeover" of Hezbollah's hijacking of the TWA jet last year marked the end of any hope of Amal-Iranian reconciliation. Al-Amine is now the spiritual leader of the Hezbollah in Beirut.

Ex-leaders unite to confront Khomeini

By Hazhir Teimourian

With talk in Tehran of a new offensive against Iraq north of the city of Basra, Iran's internal opposition - still clinging to a precarious existence - has merged to form an umbrella organization to facilitate its struggle against despotism.

The Alliance for the Defence of Liberty and the Sovereignty of the Iranian Nation is composed of the Freedom Movement, led by the Islamic republic's first prime minister, Dr Mehdi Bazargan, and senior figures from the old National Front, the former liberal opposition grouping whose deputy leader, Dr Shahpour Bakhtiar, formed the last government before the revolution of February 1979.

The National Front representatives in the new organization include Mr Ali Ardalan, a former economy minister, and Dr Assadollah Mobashery, a former minister of justice in Dr Bazargan's Cabinet. The alliance's hard-hitting, nine-page opening statement, a copy of which has reached Europe, incurred Ayatollah Khomeini's wrath.

In a recent speech, referring to alliance opposition to the war with Iraq, he said: "Such Muslims are worse than infidels."

Iran hits tankers from Gulf helipad

Bahrain (Reuters) - Iran is using an oil platform in the middle of the Gulf as a base from which helicopters attack tankers, shipping industry sources said yesterday.

Helicopters are believed to have attacked at least 14 ships this year from the platform, known as Rostam Island, in the centre of an oilfield about 65 miles from the Iranian mainland and close to shipping lanes for Arab Gulf ports. Since it started using Rostam late last year, the focus of Iran's attacks has moved eastwards in the Gulf.

Previous strikes centered on an area of shallows known as the Shah Allum shoal, closer to Qatar's northern tip. Most were carried out by F4 Phantoms based on Lavan Island, just off the Iranian mainland.

The sources said the captain of the Panamanian tanker Stiefos, reported that a helicopter, which fired a rocket at his ship last Sunday, took off from the Rostam helipad.

Iran is short of jets and use of helicopters in these attacks frees fixed-wing aircraft to support its ground offensives further north.

NICOSIA: Iran said yesterday that its navy had intercepted a cargo ship near the Strait of Hormuz and taken it to a southern port because it suspected the ship was carrying goods for Iraq (AP reports).

Ban stifles meeting on free media

From Christopher Follett Copenhagen

A dispute over restrictions on press coverage preceded the opening in Copenhagen yesterday of a meeting on the flow of information sponsored by the United Nations and Unesco.

At an introductory press briefing before the second international round table meeting on a new world information and communications order, Mr Dileep Padgonkar, the Indian-born Director of the Division of Free Flow of Information and Communications at Unesco in Paris, demanded that journalists covering the conference receive clearance permission from participants before quoting from their speeches or papers.

Correspondents, who saw this move as a blatant restriction on their press freedom, were told that such a procedure was necessary to ensure correct coverage of the meeting and engender a freer debate among participants.

Topping the agenda is an assessment of the international flow of information.

Proposals are also on the table to redress the imbalance between East and West, North and South, and the Third World and the industrial democracies) on media freedom, world communication developments and access to, and participation in, communication globally.

The final report is to be submitted to the UN General Assembly at the end of the Copenhagen session.

US threat alarms Portugal

From Martha de la Cal Lisbon

Portuguese exporters and government officials are worried by President Reagan's threats to restrict imports from EEC countries on the grounds that the recent entry of Portugal and Spain will cost the US \$1 billion a year in lost agricultural exports, particularly cereal, soy beans and cooking oils.

The Secretary of State for European Integration, Senhor Vitor Martins, said Portugal was concerned that the US might restrict basic Portuguese exports such as wine and textiles. Mr Martins said Portugal would prefer to negotiate through the EEC, and would support every effort by the EEC to reach an agreement.

Portugal exports \$33 million worth of wine and spirits to the US each year, and exports of textiles have been increasing so rapidly that American manufacturers have become alarmed.

On the other hand, Portugal has been buying most of its cereals and cooking oils from the US, although the high value of the dollar has caused the amount to be cut back from \$700 million worth of wheat, soy beans and other food products in 1984 to \$428 million last year.

Under the EEC agreement, Portugal must buy at least 15.5 per cent of its cereal from the Community for a transition period of five years.

The US Administration says this is a violation of the GATT treaty.

Scandal of \$1m awards Reagan tries to rein in galloping damages

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

President Reagan plans to introduce legislation to control runaway damages awards by American juries.

Doctors in particular are being sued at record rates by patients who can become instantly rich because of a minor medical error. The average medical malpractice award by juries last year for the first time topped \$1 million (\$667,000).

The legislation will propose significant changes in liability insurance coverage, perhaps including clearly defined limits on the awards juries can make. Contingency lawyers who often become wealthy overnight by taking a percentage of damages awards may have their fees limited.

White House officials believe that some of the steam may be taken out of the "damages industry" once lawyers find such cases less lucrative.

The madness that seems to have gripped so many juries in damages cases was demonstrated graphically last week when a jury in Philadelphia awarded more than \$1 million to a woman who blamed a body

scan for the loss of her psychic powers.

Judith Haiman had claimed that as a result of the scan she suffered severe headaches when she tried to use her psychic powers.

Insurance cover is now unavailable in many areas in America because of fears by insurance companies of swingeing jury awards. Ice risks and fairgrounds have closed all over the country because they can no longer afford cover.

Many states have already made it more difficult for victims to recover large financial judgments, but the White House says that it wants federal action to avert a crisis in the insurance industry.

The legislation will propose that damages may be paid over time and will change laws to provide a more realistic assessment of responsibility in claims.

Haiti police chief held

Rio de Janeiro (AP) - Colonel Albert Pierre, the former police chief of Haiti capital, Port-au-Prince, has been detained in Brasilia pending extradition hearings.

He arrived on government orders with his wife and Mr. Jenier Coste, a former Haiti secret police officer, from a remote Brazilian island where they had been given temporary asylum on February 25.

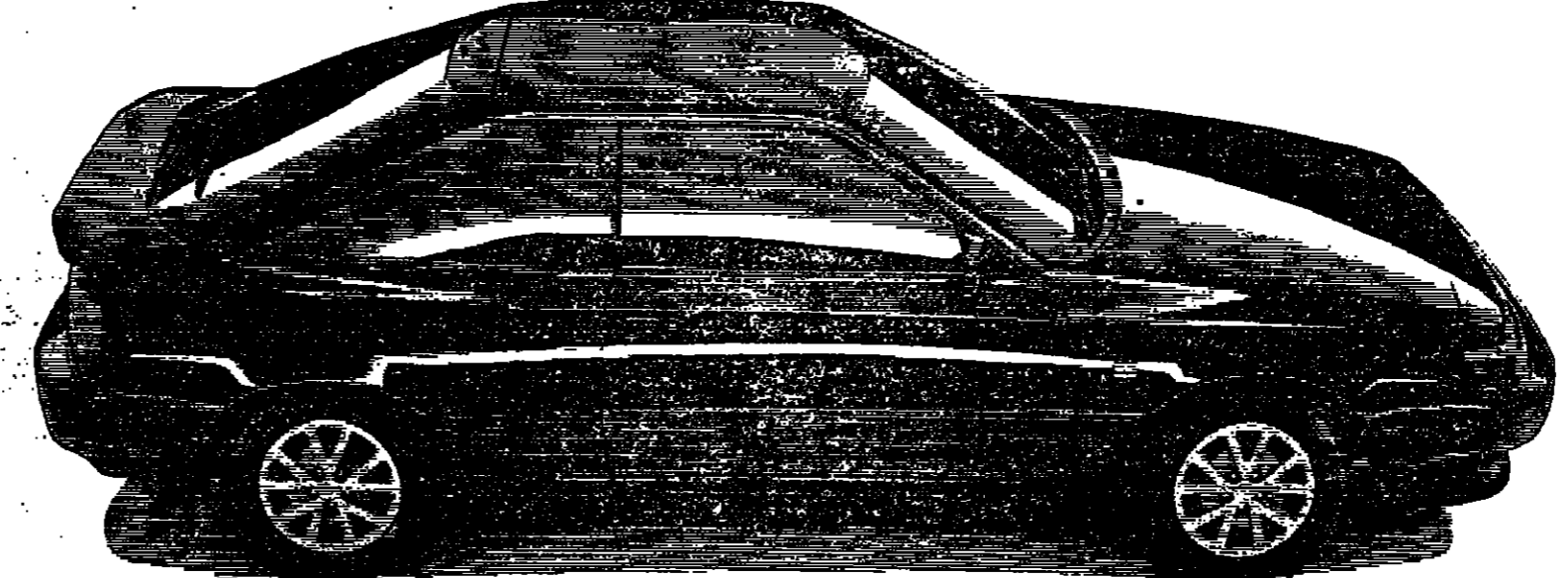
Colonel Pierre, aged 53, has been accused of torture and murder by political prisoners freed after the former dictator, Jean-Claude Duvalier, fled Haiti. The two countries have no extradition treaty.



AND INTO THE RECORD BOOKS.

EAST AFRICAN SAFARI RALLY

- 1984 1ST PLACE TOYOTA CELICA
1985 1ST PLACE TOYOTA CELICA
1986 1ST PLACE TOYOTA CELICA



NOW SHOWING AT YOUR LOCAL DEALER TOYOTA CELICA GT

That's motoring

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, likely a scanning artifact or bleed-through from another page.

BOOKS

Kings, clans, clangers

Hugo Vickers

THE ULTIMATE FAMILY

By John Pearson Michael Joseph, £12.95

John Pearson is the author of an admirable book on Ian Fleming, and an extremely well-researched biography of the Sitwells (Focades). Therefore one approaches him with confidence and expectation.

The virgin and the cripple

James Fenton on Anthony Powell's first major novel for ten years

admirable vehicles for speedy movement, but can if necessary be employed as weapons of defence or offence. You laugh? I can assure you I have used them more than once in the latter capacity, may well do so again.

THE FISHER KING By Anthony Powell Heinemann, £9.95



in order to devote herself to the crippled Henchman. He is the Fisher King of the title. It is Beal's fantasy to interpret his existence in the light of the Arthurian legend, and it is Mr Powell's purpose to arrange around this central couple a design of thematic variations on the subject of sickness and health, ugliness and beauty, impotence and sexuality, age and youth.

If I think of Henchman as a photographer, and try to recognise in him characteristics that might remind me of other photographers I might have read about or met, I feel that I'm missing some point. But, if I think of him as the Artist, things fall immediately into place.

Making the caged bird sing

Karan Thapar

INDIRA GANDHI Letters to a Friend 1950-1984

By Dorothy Norman Wendenfeld & Nicolson, £10.95

To her countrymen Indira Gandhi was an enigma. Whether they loved or hated her, few could claim to have understood the woman. Her opponents saw her as the frigid, calculating Amazon of Indian politics.

The purpose of publishing Mrs Gandhi's letters is presumably to provide answers to these questions. Indira Gandhi certainly had her own writing of herself she asks "Are most people not just a split personality but several personalities? I feel I am and I have learned to make all the separate personalities quite friendly with each other. But I still don't know how to present them to the world. Different people see different me."

may not like it or be good at it. But at least it deserves a trial. It was not to be. Instead, she became India's prime minister and the prison walls closed in. Despite her anxieties and premonitions, a greater power was driving her on.

Nuns in the outback, reds in the bed

FICTION

Stuart Evans MEMOIRS OF MANY IN ONE By Patrick White Cape, £8.95

JUMBO By Gabrielle Lord The Bodley Head, £8.95

ABIDING CITY By Lawrence Halley The Bodley Head, £9.95

FREE AGENTS By Max Apple Faber, £9.95

be put off by the insensitive jacket design. It is an unsensational, perceptive, often painful study of two women whose lives intersect at certain important moments.

baby girl she gave up to adoption 16 years ago. The other is a 16-year-old, gentle and well-intentioned but without any special skills, who is desperately trying to find a job. General retrenchment, callous attitudes on the part of prospective employers, and her difficult relationship with her father convince the girl that she is a failure, in spite of the fact that she is much loved by the children with whom she baby-sits.

Laurence Halley's novel foresees a time when Pope and Archbishop celebrate Mass in the same ceremony at Canterbury. Events at the cathedral on the momentous occasion are intercut in a retrospective

account of the life of Gareth Benton, in charge of protocol at Church House. The son of an eminent, autocratic surgeon who expects success, Benton at his public school, at Cambridge, and in his Foreign Office career delivers it. Cold, selfish, supercilious, surprisingly ambitious — friendship is not important to him, nor are relations with women.

Soon after, a pretty, sexually vibrant music-student comes to work, during her vacation, at his house, where a relation of hers is already a servant. Benton embarks on an abandoned

love affair, which culminates in them tumbling about in the open air naked under the eyes of the N.G.B. The misdemeanour may seem trivial in the light of our cynical mores; but the author's understanding of diplomatic procedures lends credibility to the assumption that it is enough to compromise Benton, and bring about his downfall at the F.O.

Fortuitously he is offered the protocol position at Church House. As he comes to terms with his sense of doubt and failure, he emerges slowly as a sadder, more sympathetic figure. The climax of the novel, in the cathedral, is inevitable, though achieved with well-judged suspense.

Free Agents is an excellent, entertaining collection of stories — very American, indelibly Jewish. So that many

references and allusions, which no doubt enhance the author's keen sense of irony, will mean little to European readers. Some of the tales appear to be autobiographical, in that Max Apple and his two children appear in them; but even these have a surreal, fantastic quality that gives them an extra dimension. Some, notably "Bridging", "The Four Apples", "Pizza Time", and the brilliant title story "Free Agents", are as moving as they are witty.

Make sure of your copy of TLS The Times Literary Supplement Educational Supplement The Times Higher Education Supplement

A hair-raising pundit

Basil Boothroyd

AGATE A Biography By James Harding Methuen, £12.95

enclave. Enemies blackballed him.

Stage stories can be hard going. Few of these are. One diary entry recalled how Beerholm Tye's wife, Helen, performing at a charity matinee, "advanced to a gold chair, and swathed in hellfire and brimstone, said smugly, 'I want you all to imagine I'm a plumber's mate.'"

be. Behind the granite confidence, a warren of fears and superstitions. Touch every other railing, avoid the flagstone cracks. In ships he stayed well clear of the side. Though no sleepwalker, he dreaded sleepwalking out of his window and killing himself.

There were kindnesses. He would use his influence to push young literary aspirants in whom he discerned something worth pushing. But his self-seeking ambition dominated all.

Patricia Highsmith has set her novel in New York's Greenwich Village, which was possibly a mistake. She seems, surprisingly, to be not totally at ease in the milieu. As a result her characters, too, are not as confidently described as we have come to expect from her.

Highsmith's extraordinary ability to draw menace and tension out of the most everyday events has not deserted her; and her portrayal of Ralph's developing obsession is as chilling and credible as anything she has done.

Small pie from the Big Apple

CRIME

Marcel Berlins

FOUND IN THE STREET

By Patricia Highsmith Heinemann, £9.95

reported him for dangerous driving. Yorke's portrait of growing resentment leading to inevitable violence is frighteningly convincing. An altogether superior psychotriller.

plastered in big letters on the front cover? At Night all Wolves are Grey, by Gunnar Staaleen (Quercus, £8.95) Set in Bergen, written in Norwegian, Staaleen's novel has an unmistakable whiff of Ross Macdonald's California. Varg Veum is in the best traditions of sleuthery. The dense plot combines interesting glimpses of the seamier side of non-fjord Norway with wartime treachery and a thirty year old fatal mystery fire.

"A" is for Alibi, by Sue Grafton (Macmillan £7.95). Sparky cynical Californian female private eye Kinsey Milhone in promising debut, hired by convinced, now paroled, wife to seek real killer of her nasty husband eight years ago. Twisty plot well-handled.

Moon drop to Murder, by John Buxton Hilton (Collins £7.95). Retired Superintendent Kenworthy not altogether at ease in the south of France, following dying colonel's last trip and unearthing long-kept secrets of wartime Resistance and betrayal.

Into the Valley of Death, by Evelyn Hervey (Wendenfeld & Nicolson £8.95). The victorious Miss Urwin. Victorian governess with a penchant for detection, is summoned to save an innocent country publican from imminent gallows.

FOYLES ART GALLERY LACE AN OPEN BOOK AN EXHIBITION BY PAT EARNSHAW (Author of 'The Identification of Lace') 10-6 daily until April 9 113-119 Charing Cross Road London, WC2

THE TIMES DIARY

Lambeth squawk

After Red Ted Knight and his 29 Lambeth sidekicks disappeared in a puff of smoke last night, the dominant Tory group is today preparing a counter-attack to prevent a triumphant return of remaining Labour councillors assuming the mantle of power...

Mod cons

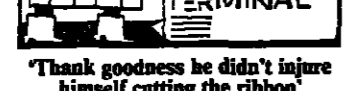
Is Sir Clive Sinclair feeling the pinch since the collapse of his CS company? His four-bedroom Chelsea home has just come on the market at an asking price of £995,000...

Macsim

Lord Stockton has lost none of his grasp of the nuances of the political scene. After Leon Brittan's replacement by Paul Channon as Trade and Industry Secretary...

Woe upon woe

Will the V & A's troubles never end? It heard that immediately after the flooding caused by a burst pipe a scaffolding plank broke the skylight of an upstairs gallery...



Thank goodness he didn't injure himself cutting the ribbon

Distaff rules

Hammersmith and Fulham Council have issued a charter pledging that women managers will: "Be honest and open to everyone... refuse to subscribe to the conflict theory for the operation of this Authority..."

Matcho

Mick McGahey, the NUM's chain-smoking vice-president, obviously has as scant regard for the TUC leadership as he does his own health. At a TUC committee meeting recently, McGahey, who suffers from chronic chest problems, wheezed: "It's a sign of the times - ashtrays, like leadership, are in short supply at Congress House these days."

Oscar for hire

Sound recordist Peter Handsford, whose work on Out of Africa landed Britain one of its handful of Oscars, tells me he has not worked on a feature film since finishing the Streep-Redford epic more than a year ago...

Teachers in England must be puzzled by the way that Scottish ministers can "find" the money to finance their colleagues' 15 per cent pay deal. Ratepayers south of the border were similarly surprised at the ease with which £38 million was "found" last spring in rate relief for Scots...

Give England a fair deal for a change

by Michael Fallon

£1 billion a year which could not be justified under normal public spending rules. The territorial block formula is the cause of the trouble. For a start, the formula appears to apply automatically. If additional provision, for example on roads or libraries, is decided for England, the Scottish and Welsh blocks benefit accordingly...

longer as one of Britain's poorer regions: measured on GDP per capita it ranks third, after only the South East and East Anglia. Indeed, suspending the formula in some areas (such as council housing) might compel Scottish Office ministers to pursue even more vigorously the policies that have extended ownership in England...

Richard Ford examines the strains imposed by Portadown

Loyal or loyalist? The great RUC challenge

Belfast weekend, as Northern Ireland's traditional marching season began, men of the Royal Ulster Constabulary were hoping that the parades would not herald the onset of a turbulent summer...



Belfast, December 1985: RUC men retreat from a loyalist demonstration of protest against the Hillsborough agreement - a forerunner of this week's violence

Afterwards, the gun shots that blasted the window of a police reservist's home in north Belfast and the petrol bomb attacks on the homes of two officers in the Shankill Road showed what loyalists mean when they scream at the RUC. "Your day of reckoning is coming..."

which the authorities deliberately brought to a head, to the dismay of hardline loyalists. Although only two loyalist parades were banned and 15 re-routed, the suspicion that Dublin's hand was behind the action enraged Unionists and led to rioting and intimidation of police officers...

Irishmen. It has also meant that the once steady stream of soldiers' coffins returning to the mainland has almost ceased. "effectively neutralising" the "troops' out" movement in Britain. Police primacy has also resulted in a huge expansion in the size of the RUC, which now has 8,249 full-time officers and a reserve of 4,508...

The police have, in effect, been asked to agree to be used as tools in enforcing the agreement. An illicit tape recording of two officers being cheered when they expressed opposition to it was leaked to a politician. Two Unionist party leaders subsequently placed an advertisement in local newspapers suggesting that the agreement was contrary to their oath of allegiance...

Johannesburg

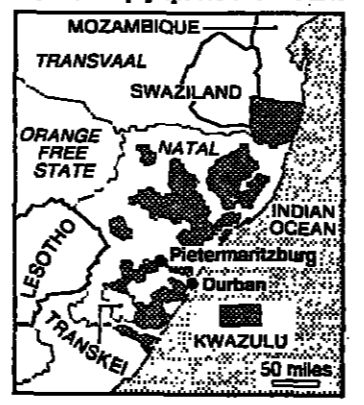
The possibility of a deal between South Africa's biggest white tribe, the Afrikaners, and its biggest black group, the Zulus, has hovered for years on the horizon of the country's political landscape. Hitherto, however, it has always evaporated on closer examination...

Michael Hornsby previews a meeting that could change the face of South Africa

Talking about tolerance

Natal Provincial Council, its white counterpart, would be equally represented on the JEA, the chairmanship of which would rotate between Buthelez and Cadman. Pretoria seems likely to agree to this stage of the proposal, even though it has still to be explained how Natal's large Indian community would be accommodated within this system...

grassland that occupy most of the interior plateau. The provincial capital, Pietermaritzburg, is named after two early Boer voortrekkers, Piet Retief and Gerrit Maritz, but the Boer Republic of Natal lasted only four years before it came under British rule in 1843. Natal's white population, which in mid-1983 numbered 586,018, is almost entirely English-speaking and voted heavily against severing links with the British Crown in 1960...



Ronald Butt Passion and principle

The idea of loyalty to a political party moves Michael Foot to a kind of intellectual ecstasy. To him, loyalty means more than the obligation of a politician who dissents from his party on particular issues to remain loyal so long as he subscribes to its basic aims...

whose logic is a party democracy which is inimicable to parliament. Writing of Benn's discovery of Marxism after 1979, Foot observes: "Marxism is a thrilling creed, and one which can open our eyes and ears to the excitement and glory of working-class history..."

On that analysis, the old Liberal Party should never have split and declined, making way for Labour. Nor should the Tories have split over the Corn Laws. The truth is that parties wax and wane, some dying, some altering their shape, according to changing needs...

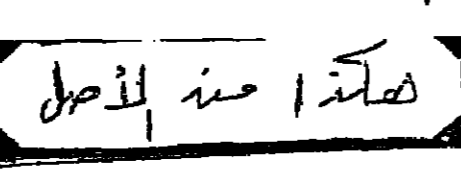
Another target is Tony Benn, the boat-rocker of the left. Foot's account of Benn's transformation after 1979 from a moderate into the extremist who used the party conference to downgrade the positions of the parliamentary party and of the leader are essays in insider observation which a moderate could hardly better...

Since Foot is a parliamentarian he would have none of all this. But like many on the legitimate left he has been happy to rise in his party by playing with fire, he condemns the blatant Trotskyists but says nothing about the hidden Leninists who are more frightening because more efficient. Indeed, even his attitude to the Leninists of Moscow is significantly revealed in the final words of his essay on Churchill where he condemns the "post-war panic about the Soviet Union which he himself (Churchill) had done so much to inflame..."

moreover... Miles Kington Delayed action packed

We interrupt this page to bring you a British Telecom announcement. Hello. Have you got one of those new phones where you don't dial, you simply press buttons? Better still, have you got one of those really new phones where you don't even press buttons, you just use the memory to get the number for you? Fun, isn't it? And yet so simple...

wait for 20 or 30 seconds doing nothing. While I am waiting for the number to ring, I make another phone call. Wilson Corona, Formula 1 racing driver: "Most Grand Prix cars are now equipped with phones, so during a race I often call up my fellow drivers to check on me. Sometimes I pretend it's a wrong number, or perhaps I criticize their driving - they hate that. When I'm waiting for the number to ring I like to wave the receiver at the driver next to me and shout: 'It's for you!' We need more humour in motor racing..."





COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE
April 2: The Queen was represented by Sir Paul Scoon (Governor General of Grenada) at the Reception for Sir Leo de Gale (formerly Governor General of Grenada) which was held in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, St George's this afternoon.

tion in the Royal Train this morning.
His Royal Highness opened British Aerospace's new Space Engineering Building at Filton, Bristol and received a briefing on the interception of Halley's Comet by the Spacecraft Giotto.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr C.T. Bunbury and Miss A.C. Green
The engagement is announced between Charles Thomas, younger son of the late Sir William Bunbury, Bt, and Pamela Lady Bunbury, of Hollesley, Suffolk, and Amanda Carol, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs John Green, of Chelsea Park Gardens, London, SW3.

Mr A. Gerslfield and Miss J.S. Jacobson
The engagement is announced between Aaron, younger son of Mr and Mrs Ivor Gerslfield, and Laura Susanne, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ronald M. Jacobson, all of London.

A recount for ancient polls

By Philip Howard
Public opinion polls and other forms of computerized head-counting and number games are the bread and marg of modern politics.

Appointments

Latest appointments include: Mr Justice Tucker to be a Presiding Judge on the Midland and Oxford Circuit in place of the late Mr Justice Skinner.

Marriages

Viscountess Camrose and Princess Joan Aly Khan
The marriage will take place quietly at home between Viscountess Camrose and Princess Joan Aly Khan.

Dinners

London Welsh Rugby Football Club
The Prince and Princess of Wales were present at the London Welsh Rugby Football Club centenary dinner held last night at Grosvenor House, Mr Victor Watkins presided and others present included:

Birthdays today

Mr Anthony Wedgwood Benn, MP, 61; Mr Jeffrey Bowman, 51; Mr Marion Brand, 62; Canon A.D. Caesar, 62; Mr Dennis Farr, 57; Sir Alistair Frame, 57; the Duke of Devon, 67; Mr Geoffrey Kohl, 56; Mr Jonathan Lynn, 43; Vice-Admiral Sir Alan McVicoll, 78; His Honour J.C. Maude, QC, 85; Lord Justice Nourse, 54; Mr James Penister, 93; Sir John Ricks, 81; Mr R. S. Taylor, 71; Mr F.H. Tate, 73; Lieutenant-Colonel Sir John Thomson, 78; Professor Kathleen Tiltson, 80; Sir John Walley, 80.

Latest wills

Dowager Viscountess Davidson.
Dowager Viscountess Davidson, of Black Notley, died, testate, valued at £234,918. Mr Isreal Pollockoff, of Bangor, Gwynedd, left £1,196,761 net.

Sir Huw Wheldon

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir Huw Wheldon, former Managing Director of BBC Television, will be held in Westminster Abbey at noon on Wednesday, May 7, 1986. Those wishing to attend are invited to apply for tickets to: The Receiver General, Room 7, 20 Dean's Yard, Westminster Abbey, London, SW1P 3PA, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope, by Wednesday, April 23. Tickets will be posted by Wednesday, April 30. All are welcome.

OBITUARY

ERIK BRUHN

Virtuoso ballet dancer of individual style

Erik Bruhn, the most perfect male dancer of his generation, died on April 1 in Toronto, aged 57. An international ballet star of the first rank, he was idolized in his native Denmark and in America where he spent most of his career. His performances in Britain were sadly few but unforgettable.



Bruhn's real name was Belton Evers. He was born on October 3, 1928, in Copenhagen, the son of an engineer who left home when the boy was five. (Much later they met and became good friends.) Brought up in an all-female home, the boy became silent and introspective, and a doctor advised dancing classes as a remedy.

SIR HAROLD HARDING

Sir Harold Harding, FEng, a past president of the Institution of Civil Engineers, who acted as a consultant to the Channel Tunnel Study Group from 1958 until 1970 and helped to organize two million pounds' worth of work involving 75 borings at sea and 800 miles of geophysical work.

Soviet plan for Martian space probe

By a Special Correspondent
As scientists throughout the world continue to analyse and evaluate the huge volume of data gathered from the Mars probes, plans are well under way in Moscow for another space spectacular, code-named Project Phobos.

Births, Marriages, Deaths and In Memoriam

Advertisements for Births, Marriages, Deaths and In Memoriam, including notices for GARDNER, JONES, MAY, KYRKE-SMITH, LUNSDEN, WATSON, MCLGUILD, PARSONS, BAYCROFT, RAWLINGS, COOGLIE, SHEPARD, DAWSON, COLLINGHAM, GIBBS, BRYCESON, ROBINSON, WILKINS, SMANNON, SLADE, WATSON, COOGLIE, SHEPARD, DAWSON, GRIFFITH-JONES, and others.

Advertisements for Births, Marriages, Deaths and In Memoriam, including notices for WATSON, COOGLIE, SHEPARD, DAWSON, GRIFFITH-JONES, and others.

Pretax losses at BL leap 50% to £110.3 million

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

BL, the state-controlled motor company whose Land Rover subsidiary remains at the centre of the Government's latest privatisation controversy, yesterday disclosed pretax losses for last year of £110.3 million, a 50 per cent increase on the £73.3 million loss in 1984.

The apparent worsening was caused mainly by the sale of Jaguar in August 1984, which removed that company's profit-making activities from the BL group.

The directors, led by Sir Austin Bida, the chairman, said, however, that the operating loss of £39.5 million represented "a significant reduction" on the comparable 1984 loss of £66.5 million.

Land Rover Group, which includes the successful Freight Rover operation - maker of the Sherpa van - increased its operating profit to £10 million against £2 million in 1984.

Leyland Group, the truck and bus business, suffered a loss of £52 million against a deficit of £61 million in 1984. BL said Leyland Trucks' much improved financial performance was offset by sharply increased losses at Leyland Bus.

after tax, interest and extraordinary items, was £138 million, compared with a profit of £80.6 million in 1984. The latter figure was distorted, however, by the impact of the £167 million of profit achieved from the sale of Jaguar.

The board said: "Despite a further intensification of competitive conditions in all markets in which BL companies operate, on a comparable basis overall progress was achieved in production, sales and financial performance."

Turnover for the year was £3,415 million of which £1,674 million accounted for £764 million, a 28 per cent rise on 1984. Excluding Jaguar's overseas sales, BL's 1984 exports

were worth £598 million. Sales revenue in Britain was £2,353 million.

BL's 1985 preliminary results show that Austin Rover sales rose by 27 per cent in Europe to 105,000 units, the best performance since 1979.

Output was up 23 per cent to 479,000 units, with 99.95 per cent of working time free of disputes, an industrial relations record for BL.

Unipart, the BL parts and components company, made a much reduced profit of £6 million (£14 million).

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1419.4 (+17.2) FT-SE 100 1702.9 (+18.9) USM (Datastream) 118.62 (+0.42)

THE POUND

US Dollar 1.4735 (+0.0050) W German mark 3.4885 (+0.0654) Trade-weighted 76.5 (+0.7)

Sugar cash resignation

A boardroom clash rumbled at British Sugar yesterday over the payment of a secret £210 million extraordinary dividend to S & W Berisford, the sugar refiner's parent company.

Imps accuses Hanson

The Imperial Group and United Biscuits yesterday complained to the Takeover Panel about a Hanson Trust advertisement which compared Hanson's offer with the Imperial share price and which appeared yesterday.

GRE retreat

Guardian Royal Exchange, the composite insurance company, made pretax profits of £3.5 million in 1985 against £92.2 million. The dividend is raised by 10.6 per cent to 28.75p.

Christies fall

Christies International reported turnover for the year to December 1985 of £1 million on 1984 of £24 million. Pretax profit fell 24 per cent to £12.2 million. Earnings per share were 14.83p and the dividend was unchanged at 5.5p net.

Bunzl payout

Bunzl turnover slipped 8 per cent to £788 million for the year to December 31 but pretax profit rose to £42.7 million, up 54 per cent. The dividend was raised by 2.5p to 10p net.

BHP sues

Broken Hill Proprietary and its directors have issued separate writs concerning the exercise of voting rights for shares the company has bought in Bell Resources and allegations made by Bell.

Sketchley buy

Acceptances for the Sketchley offer for Breakmate have been received for 3.61 million Breakmate shares, representing 98.5 per cent.

No referral

The following proposed mergers will not be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission: Ladbroke Group and Home Charm Group, Chicago Pacific Corporation and the Hoover Co, and TAC Construction Materials and Eternit Building Products.

UK reserves show biggest increase for five years

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Britain's official gold and foreign currency reserves recorded their biggest rise for more than five years last month, reflecting the pound's strength in the face of weak oil prices.

The reserves rose by an underlying \$278 million (£189 million) in March, the biggest monthly increase since January, 1981. The actual rise last month was much larger, because of the annual revaluation of the reserves.

The reserves, totalling \$18,750 million (£12,686 million) at the end of March, the highest since March, 1982. This compared with \$15,810 million at the end of February.

The overall increase in the reserves was \$2,940 million. Of this, \$2,505 million was because of the annual revaluation, and \$435 million because of the monthly increase, before allowing for capital accruals and repayments.

The rise in the reserves, which was much bigger than City economists expected, suggests that the Bank of England took advantage of the



UK official reserves in US dollars. Source: Bank of England. The graph shows a steady increase from approximately \$15 billion in 1981 to over \$18 billion by March 1985.

pound's strength, particularly after the March 18 Budget, to boost the reserves.

The pound reached a 2 1/2-year high of \$1.5190 last month, and its average value also rose. The sterling index began the month at 72.5 and ended it 5 per cent higher at 76.3.

The pace of bank lending has slowed markedly, according to the latest quarterly analysis of advances from the Bank of England. Total lending rose 2 per cent, or £2.97 billion, in the three months to mid-February.

After seasonal adjustment, the rise was £3.36 billion, £1.6 billion less than in the previous three months. The slowdown in the pace of lending, together with lower-than-expected public sector borrow-

ing, has reduced the rate of increase of broad money.

The figures show why the banks have been adopting a more aggressive approach to mortgage lending. In the November-February period, mortgage lending by the banks increased by £640 million, less than half the rise in the previous two quarters.

Around half the rise in lending in the most recent three-month period was to the financial sector.

Bank lending slows

The Reagan Administration has said that stability is unlikely unless the Saudis and the Opec nations are able to settle their differences with Britain.

Studies indicate that as the price for oil paid by US refiners drops from \$15 to \$10 a barrel, losses in the big energy-producing states could cancel gains made elsewhere.

Four of the biggest oil-producing states suffering recessions - Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Alaska - account for 10 per cent of total US employment and 11 per cent of total retail sales.

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Washington feels pressure for oil production pact

From Bailey Morris Washington

The Reagan Administration is reassessing its policies to decide whether it should put pressure on Saudi Arabia and Britain to reach an oil production agreement.

The Administration is under severe political pressure from US oil-producing states, but officials are divided over whether the harmful effects of the oil price collapse are beginning to outweigh the good effects measured by more optimistic world economic growth projections.

The officials decided to publicize their concern on the eve of Vice-President George Bush's visit to Saudi Arabia which begins today.



Vice-President Bush: will press for price stability.

Mr Bush said on Tuesday that although he is not going to Saudi Arabia on a "price-setting mission", he does intend to press for more price stability.

Enterprise to slash exploration

By Carol Ferguson

Enterprise Oil, the former oil production arm of the British Gas Corporation, yesterday announced a 40 per cent cut in its exploration programme this year because of the fall in the price of oil.

In announcing the results of its first full year of operations since privatization in mid-1984, the company forecast for 1986 "a much reduced level of activity and profits from which Enterprise is not immune".

For the year to December 1985, Enterprise said oil production in the North Sea was more than 35,000 barrels a day from seven fields, an increase of 9 per cent on last year.

A lower sterling oil price meant that turnover was unchanged at £266 million. Exploration write-offs were £32.8 million, nearly double the 1984 level. Despite higher interest income, pretax profit was down by 20 per cent to £111 million.

The company made several acquisitions, of which Saxon Oil is the most important. Saxon's Miller field is one of

the largest undeveloped British offshore oil fields.

These acquisitions have increased the exploration area and six further oil and gas discoveries which could be developed over the next 10 years.

However, if the oil price remains under \$18 a barrel for a long time, the commercial viability of many undeveloped fields will be in doubt.

Nevertheless, Enterprise was confident that its financial resilience would enable it to continue the development of the business in the short term.

Whitehall steels itself for Cornish tinmen's appeal

By Michael Prest, Financial Correspondent

Cornwall's tin mines, which face closure after the collapse of the world tin price, are appealing to the Government for financial help to stem heavy losses and are considering legal action against the London Metal Exchange for alleged loss of revenue.

But yesterday Whitehall sources said that the mines stood little chance of obtaining revenue subsidies, although capital assistance for economic projects might be possible.

Mr Kenneth Gilbert, managing director of Gevor, accused the Department of Trade and Industry of using the lack of a formal application by his company for capital assistance as an excuse for refusing to consider short-term production subsidies.

Caron, Consolidated, the subsidiary of Rio Tinto-Zinc which controls the Wheal

Jane and South Crofty mines, is losing more than £1 million a month.

Virtually no tin is being sold in the very depressed market, so production is being stopped. The loss is calculated on the interest cost of carrying the stock and on revenue foregone.

Gevor announced on Tuesday that its monthly losses are running at £350,000 and that it will have to lay-off all its 380 workers at the end of this week. Caron employs about 1,000 people.

Tin is fetching between £3,000 and £4,000 a tonne, half its price last October. Mr Gilbert said that the company is completing an application for about £16 million of Regional Selective Assistance over five years, along with another £4 million of working capital.

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Sir Gordon hits out over competition

The spate of takeover bids has not left competition policy in disarray. Far from it. At least, that was last night's controversial message from Sir Gordon Borrie, Director-General of Fair Trading, who took advantage of the Finance Houses' Association annual dinner to argue that competition policy was now clearer on three counts.

Sir Gordon began with a swipe at Alex Fletcher, the former minister who now advises Argyll in its bid for Distillers. When Sir Gordon decided not to refer for Monopolies and Mergers Commission investigation the second Guinness bid for Distillers, after the proposal to divest some of the Distillers whisky brands, Mr Fletcher said that a wedge was being driven through the Government's competition policy. Sir Gordon said last night: "He speaks with the authority of ministerial experience, but I think he has allowed his judgment to be clouded by his current attachment as a consultant to Argyll."

Sir Gordon recalled the Tebbitt dictum that the primary ground for merger referral is concern over reduction in market competition. But primary does not mean exclusive, he pointed out. Hence, he said, the Elders' bid for Allied-Lyons was referred because of concern at the high leverage. He looks to the commission's report, due in the summer, to provide helpful guidance on the issue to everybody, including

Guinness Peat, the investment management and merchant banking group, announced yesterday that it had reached an advanced stage in negotiations to acquire 100 per cent of Henderson Crosthwaite, the stockbroker.

The size of the deal was not disclosed but the move would add a medium-sized broking capacity in both private and institutional business.

The private client business of Henderson Crosthwaite will be fitted in with the personal finance services offered by Guinness Mahon, the merchant banking arm of Guinness Peat. The institutional business will be combined with White & Cheesman, the jobber which is wholly owned by Guinness Peat, to create the core of Guinness Mahon Securities.

Mr Alastair Morton, the Guinness Peat chief executive, said: "The private client business will be a valuable addition to the retail financial services we are building up within the group. On the securities side we are not aiming to compete with the big US securities houses after big bang but offer a more specialised service in certain stocks."

The acquisition of Henderson Crosthwaite, which handles around £900 million of clients' funds, will be completed during the summer. The talks to purchase the stockbroker started after the failure of Guinness Peat's bid for Britannia Arrow.

Reading between the lines, that means there will be no listing this year or next and that it is highly improbable there will be any change in the shareholding structure.

The idea of flotation was initiated by Midland when it was strapped for cash and casting around for disposals. Its 18 per cent shareholding in 3i, the world's largest single source of venture capital, was an obvious target.

Today Midland's need is not so urgent, and with no one to drive the proposal through, it was perhaps

inevitable that talks about a listing should have got bogged down. The last published accounts showed that risk capital investments financed out of borrowings had grown to £20.4 million. Accounts for the year to the end of last month will show that this figure has almost doubled and with the continuing growth in the activities of 3i Ventures and the trend towards ever larger and more ambitious management buyouts - 3i is responsible for about half Britain's management buyouts - there is bound to be considerable growth again this year.

Though 3i is still nowhere near its borrowing limits, the upshot is that at some stage soon either 3i's present shareholders are going to have to provide new capital or they are going to have to make it possible for others to do so.

On this latter count they have done themselves few favours by failing to agree on whether the long-term nature of 3i's business would be better reflected if its accounts were prepared on the basis on an investment company. Such a status would carry certain tax advantages as well as allowing 3i to revalue on an annual basis its considerable portfolio of unquoted investments.

No flotation in sight at 3i

Plans to float Investors In Industry on the stock market have been shelved indefinitely after several meetings of the venture capital group's eight main shareholders - a decision revealed in the prospectus for a £100 million 3i loan issue.

The document stresses that no decision has yet been taken on either a listing or on the disposal by any of the 3i shareholders including the Bank of England and the main clearing banks, of their holdings. However, the shareholders have "agreed in principle that in the interests of preserving 3i Group's special role and character, overall control should be retained for the foreseeable future within the present shareholding group."

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Ocean plan to diversify after ship sales

By Claire Dobie

Ocean Transport & Trading, the shipping company with growing industrial offshore activities, yesterday announced an increase in profits from £30.1 million to £31.9 million before tax in the year to December 31.

Associates, including Overseas Containers, increased their contribution to £26.8 million from £19.4 million. There was a £5.6 million loss on the sale of ships, against a £5.8 million profit in 1984.

Last year Ocean Transport sold three bulk carriers, thereby withdrawing from bulk shipping, and it has disposed of three surplus liners.

The company now plans to expand the industrial side, having already acquired several small businesses in coal distribution.

The final dividend is 3.95p making 6.5p for the year against 5.5p in 1984. The shares were unchanged at 197p.

The final dividend of 7p will be paid on 1 July 1986

Table with financial data for AMEC. Columns: Year ended 31 December 1985, Year ended 31 December 1984. Rows: Turnover, Profit before tax, Profit after tax, Earnings per share, Dividends per share.

The Chairman, Mr J W H Morgan F Eng, reports: "Main core businesses performed satisfactorily... areas of unacceptable performance dealt with... healthy cash position maintained... management strengthened... now set fair to resume steady progress and improvement."

AMEC - Areas of Operation: Building, Civil engineering, Mechanical engineering, Mining, Mechanical and electrical services, Project and construction management, Offshore engineering, Manufacturing, Quality assurance, Design, Property development. AMEC p.l.c., Sandway House, Northwich, Cheshire, CW8 2TA. Telephone: (0606) 863883. Telex: 669708.

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York Dow Jones 1778.86 (-11.25) Tokyo Nikkei Dow 15565.51 (-190.36) Hong Kong Hang Seng 1803.27 (-22.67) Amsterdam AEX 287.3 (+0.1) Sydney ASX 1136.0 (+6.5) Frankfurt Commerzbank 2107.1 (+1.2) Brussels General 582.17 (+32.28) Paris CAC 354.40 (same) Zurich SIK General 509.40 (same)

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES: Cookson 540p (+170) FH Tomkins 282p (+220) Williams Hodge 671p (+68) Brit Drilling 84p (+10) Vickers 513p (+20) VG Inst 445p (+27) Amstrad 452p (+24) Vaux 485p (+15) Fleetway 378p (+18) Gus A 1045p (+23) Stylo 271p (+18) Courtauld 313p (+14) J Foster 102p (+12) Racal and Co 836p (+12) A B Ports 825p (+64) Scott Heritable 154p (+18) Sun Life 875p (+24) Sun Alliance 711p (+23) Harrods Gros 381p (+18) Alexandra Workwear 289p (+12) Exocel 113p (+20) FALLS: Christie's Int 313p (-130) Natwest 915p (-13) Gevor 48p (-50)

CURRENCIES

London: \$ 1.4735, £ 1.4735, Sfr 2.1916, ¥ 113.60, ¥ 113.60, ¥ 113.60. New York: \$ 1.4735, £ 1.4735, Sfr 2.1916, ¥ 113.60, ¥ 113.60, ¥ 113.60.

GOLD

London: 335.50, 335.50, 335.50, 335.50, 335.50, 335.50, 335.50, 335.50, 335.50, 335.50.

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 11%, 3-month interbank 11.11%, 3-month Treasury bills 10.75%, 30-year bonds 12.94-12.95.

TEMPUS

Profits slump at GRE but outlook brightens

Guardian Royal Exchange's shares, in an apparently perverse reaction to the news of the slump in 1985 pretax profits to a paltry £3.5 million from £32.2 million in 1984, gained 24p to 875p yesterday.

The stock market, however, drew comfort from the fact that GRE has completed the most extensive spring clean in its history, which should pave the way for future advance.

British reserves have been strengthened by £19 million to cope with asbestos and other long tail claims, some of which relate to 30-year-old policies.

Claims against accountants in North America produced the worst of the damage. Even rate rises of 1,000 per cent would not have tempted GRE to keep writing indemnity business.

With no further special reserves anticipated in 1986, the outlook is relatively encouraging. GRE, as one of Britain's largest private motor insurers, admits it has lost some market share after rate rises of 26 per cent since December 1984, but the claims frequency appears to be levelling out.

British household insurance is also thought to be adequately rated now and nearly indications are that March sales have not been as bad as feared.

Expectations of taxable profits this year are being marked up to more than £100 million. The shares still have a long way to go to recover from their underperformance over the past year, but a 10.6 per cent dividend increase, giving an above-average yield of 4.6 per cent, should help the recovery on its way.

Christies Int

Christies International, the fine art auctioneer, signalled at the half-year stage that the 1985 result would not be as good as 1984 and this has proved to be the case.

The company endured a fair amount of adverse publicity in connection with the resignation of Mr David Bathurst in the middle of last year and there can be little doubt that the revelations about imaginary sales of a Gauguin and a Van Gogh in New York have affected Christies' standing in the US.

Of course, 1984 was an exceptional year remembered in particular for the sale of 71 Old Master drawings from the Chatsworth Collection. Despite the absence of anything on this scale in 1985, Christies managed to raise turnover by 1 per cent to £64 million. Costs inevitably were much higher and pretax profit was down by nearly 25 per cent to just over £12 million.

During 1985, the company has been busy consolidating its property portfolio. It completed the extension to its office and storage accommodation in New York in May, while in London, it purchased the lease of its headquarters in St James's.

The increase in fixed tangible assets of £11 million shown in December 1985 was financed internally. Cash reserves fell in the same period by nearly £13 million from £32 million to £19 million.

For the current year, Christies is confident that its problems in the US market are behind it and it is competing vigorously for business with its old rival Sotheby's.

Auctioneering practices in New York are being reviewed by the Department of Consumer Affairs. In London, Christies, in common with other auction houses and professional associations, is co-operating in discussing a code of conduct with the authorities.

The company can be assured of continuing to attract the full glare of publicity, beginning with the sale of the Goya portrait of the Marquesa de Santa Cruz next week on Friday.

The legal dispute with the Spanish authorities over how the painting was taken out of Spain could rumble on for another two years. However, as far as Christies is concerned, the seller has clear title to the picture, and the sale will go ahead.

Also, beginning April 28, there will be a five-day sale of the recently recovered mid-18th century china from the reign of Qianlong. The 160,000 items of ware were on board a Dutch ship which sank on its homeward journey and they are expected to fetch up to £3 million.

The company's capital spending programme is now behind it and it can look forward to generating substantial amounts of cash of up to £10 million annually. This makes this year's decision not to increase the dividend look mean. And the accumulating cash balances can only make Christies look ever more attractive to a predator.

Bunzl

Mr James White sounds like a happy man. Five years ago Bunzl, where he is managing director, was valued at just £21 million. Yesterday it was worth 30 times that with the shares at 658p, unchanged on the day.

The results for 1985, announced yesterday, provide reassurance about the short term at least. Profits were up from £27.6 million to £42.7 million before tax but that was after a one-off profit of £3.4 million made by selling dollars forward at the start of the year. Without that gain, the increase would have been 41 per cent.

The figures included a £1 million contribution from acquisitions made last year, the most important being United Parcels, which joined the group in November. In a full year, it might contribute £10 million before interest, which together with contributions from Stewart Plastics and Monmouth Paper of New Jersey, both acquired last year, should help to keep the momentum going this year.

Further acquisitions are under consideration, and the company says it can afford to spend more £35 million without issuing more paper. But the emphasis now will be on organic growth. Much depends on the American economy but the underlying prospects are good for the distribution division, supplying disposals to restaurants and other users in America and fine paper in Britain, which is likely to remain the largest part of the group. Even the old cigarette filter business is doing well.

This year should see a similar profits increase to last even without the currency gain. For the medium term, however, investors are unlikely to find phase two as exciting as phase one. The shares are trading on 17 times prospective earnings which suggests there could now be some profit taking.

Isro's new chief is used to change

Change is no stranger to Mr Jonathan Agnew, the newly appointed chief executive of the International Securities Regulatory Organization (Isro).

"I like change, that is a fair criticism of me", he says. It is not that his career is littered with dozens of different jobs, just that having made a success of his job he has tended to move on to other things.

He did however have a false start of sorts. After leaving Cambridge University he spent a year working for The Economist, before deciding that journalism was not for him and he went to the World Bank where he became a staff assistant in the projects department, evaluating proposed lending deals.

In 1967 Mr Agnew moved to Hill Samuel's corporate finance department, ending up as a director for the last two years he was there. He left in 1973 for Morgan Stanley where he was a managing director from 1977 to 1982.

Four years ago he struck out on his own as a consultant advising institutions on likely leading deals following the abolition of fixed commissions.

So how will he approach the prospect of becoming an employee again, albeit a highly paid one, as the job of Isro chief executive was advertised with a benchmark salary of £70,000.

Mr Agnew perceives his role as "representing the position of the international securities industry to the authorities and persuading the industry to fit into the proposed regulatory framework".

"There will need to be changes in the way that business is done, but it is vital that these do not impair the growth of the international securities business", he says.

"After all this business had grown up in an unregulated area and without any major scandals."

The areas that Isro, and therefore Mr Agnew, are most likely to be concerned with are the Eurobond market, the international equities business which now takes place largely off the Stock Exchange, through block trading between the major players.

In addition, there is Isro's relationship with the Stock Exchange. "Relations with the Stock Exchange are now very friendly", Mr Agnew says.

But they have not always been so and it will take all his negotiating skills if the relationship between the two bodies is to evolve into a harmonious, and permanent, one.

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STOCK MARKET REPORT Buoyant shares break record

Initial uncertainty did not last long on stock markets, and by the end of the day prices had broken through to new records. The FT 30-share index closed up 17.2 at 1419.4 and the FT-SE 100 was 18.9 higher at 1702.9.

The overnight slide on Wall Street prompted the cautious opening, but a firm pound, and an encouraging outlook for inflation as oil prices tumble, soon brought investors back in force.

Equities in the stores, building, food and electrical sectors were in favour. Among leaders meeting strong support were Vickers, 20p up at 513p on compensation hopes, and Courtaulds 14p higher at 313p in response to investment buying.

In contrast, gilts were out of favour in the wake of yesterday's decline in the US bond market. Falls stretched to a pound in places. Oils staged a strong rally

after early weakness. The movement of futures prices back over \$10 a barrel provided sufficient impetus for majors such as Shell - up 12p to 768p - to reverse initial losses.

Some good trading results spurred demand for many secondary issues, notably Associated British Ports up 48p at 609p in response to bumper results. Earnings up 23 per cent lifted Blockleys 15p at 930p, while trebled profits gave a 20p fillip to Execentax at 113p.

The clearance of the Ladbroke bid hoisted Home Charm 12p at 372p, while recent comment enabled Style to climb 18p at 271p.

Banks recovered from US debt worries, although National Westminster still showed a 10p fall at 915p. Insurances helped by some satisfactory trading results made headway. Sun Alliance put on 23p at 711p.

There were many shares catching the gambler's eye. T Cowie rose 8p at 185p for this reason, while in brewers Vaux was up 15p at 465p. The stake change on Tuesday helped Oxford Instruments to a 15p rise at 493p.

Elsewhere, satisfactory trading news put 6p on AG Stanley at 89p.

RECENT ISSUES

Table with columns for EQUITIES, RECENT ISSUES, and RIGHTS ISSUES. Lists various stocks and their prices.

Fairey sold for £22 million

Williams Holdings, the fast-growing diversified engineering group, is buying the world's leading military bridging company, Fairey Engineering, from Pearson for £22 million.

Excluding the Soviet bloc, Fairey supplies 90 per cent of the world's dry gap military bridging and 10 per cent of the wet gap bridging. Its 31-metre wet gap bridge can be built by 64 soldiers in one hour and can support a 60-tonne tank. The company also has interests in nuclear and general engineering, including robotics and nuclear waste containers.

A £150 million bid by Williams for McKechnie Brothers in February was blocked when McKechnie shareholders supported their company's bid for Newman Tonks.

Mr Brian McCowan, managing director of Williams, said: "We started on the Fairey deal the day after McKechnie turned us down."

The Western market in military bridging between now and 1989 is estimated at £275 million. In 1985 Fairey made pretax profits of £10.1 million on turnover of £81.2 million, but this year profits are expected to fall to about £4 million because of market fluctuations. Net assets, including £7 million of cash, will be £19.5 million at the time of completion, which is expected on April 24.

Williams is financing the Fairey deal, which needs shareholders' approval, through a vendor placing of 3.7 million shares at 590p. Williams' share price jumped 40p to 653p on news of the acquisition.

Hong Kong goes high-tech

Trading on Hong Kong's new space age stock exchange made a bearish start yesterday as leading stocks traded lower than before the Easter holiday.

The sluggish launch of the computerized, unified exchange was attributed to caution on the part of brokers, who wanted to see how the high-technology exchange would work in practice.

The territory's four exchanges have been brought into a 24,000-sq-ft hall with 800 computer consoles.

Mr Robert Li, chairman of the new exchange, said the system would present "a better image" to investors from abroad, and would make the local share market "more international."

BASE LENDING RATES table listing various banks and their rates.

DELANEY GROUP: Mr R Delaney, the chairman, said that in the first two months of this year the order book is 21 per cent higher than at same time last year.

TOWN CENTRE SECURITIES: An interim dividend of 0.4p (same) is payable for the six months to December 31, 1985.

INOCO: No dividend will be paid for the period from April 3 1985 to December 31, 1985.

ARCOLECTRIC HOLDINGS: A final dividend of 0.47p, making 0.72p (0.65p) is payable for the year to December 31, 1985.

CAPITAL & COUNTIES: A planning application is being submitted for a big new shopping complex in Watford town.

ASPEN COMMUNICATIONS: A final dividend of 1.8p, making 2.8p for the year to December 31, 1985.

UNITED COMPUTER AND TECHNOLOGY HOLDINGS/PARK PLACE: By Tuesday of this week, 389 UCAT holdings accepted the offer in respect of 2,119,701 UCAT shares.

COMPANY NEWS

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Advertisement for Hanson Trust PLC. Latest prices: 378.5p for Hanson Bid Worth, 355.7p for United Biscuits Bid Worth, and 22.8p for Hanson Bid Better By. Includes Hanson Trust logo and contact information.

Advertisement for Sun Life. Sun Life: Onward and upward. Includes financial results table for 1985 and 1984, and Sun Life logo.

"Further encouraging progress"

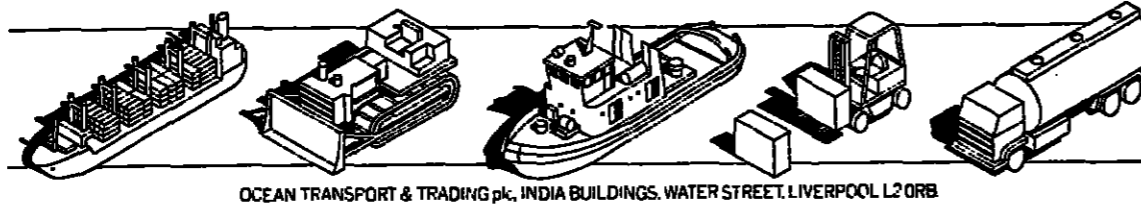
W.N. Menzies-Wilson, Chairman

- Steady improvement in Cory ■
- Excellent year for OCL ■
- Dividend up 18% ■

	1985 £m	1984 £m
Turnover	766.9	779.8
Trading profit	18.8	16.2
Profit before tax and ship sales	37.5	24.3
Profit attributable to stockholders	16.4	14.1
Earnings per stock unit	17.5p	16.8p
Dividend per stock unit	6.5p	5.5p

The Ocean Annual Report will be available on 28th April. To receive a copy please complete this coupon and return it to:
The Secretary, Ocean Transport & Trading plc, India Buildings, Water St., Liverpool L2 0RB.

Name _____
Address _____



OCEAN TRANSPORT & TRADING plc, INDIA BUILDINGS, WATER STREET, LIVERPOOL L2 0RB



SUN ALLIANCE INSURANCE GROUP RESULTS FOR 1985

The group results for 1985, subject to audit, are as follows:-

	1985 £m	1984 £m
Premium Income		
General Insurance	1,778.5	1,606.7
Long-term Insurance	576.6	505.1
	2,355.1	2,111.8
General insurance underwriting loss	(183.4)	(198.7)
Long-term insurance profits	20.9	18.4
Investment and other income	200.2	227.9
GROUP PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION	37.7	47.6
Taxation	2.8	4.1
GROUP PROFIT AFTER TAXATION	34.9	43.5
Minority interests	7.2	6.5
GROUP NET PROFIT FOR YEAR	27.7	37.0
Adjustment to exclude net loss incurred by Phoenix prior to acquisition	-	4.0
PROFIT ATTRIBUTABLE TO SHAREHOLDERS	27.7	41.0
DIVIDEND	34.5	30.6
RETAINED PROFITS TRANSFER	(6.8)	10.4
EARNINGS PER SHARE	14.0p	20.8p
DIVIDEND PER SHARE	17.5p	15.5p

TERRITORIAL ANALYSIS OF GENERAL INSURANCE RESULTS

	1985		1984	
	Premium income £m	Underwriting result £m	Premium income £m	Underwriting result £m
United Kingdom & Ireland	817.9	(69.9)	669.3	(83.2)
Europe	199.1	(30.8)	184.5	(11.5)
U.S.A. (note 1)	180.2	(18.0)	272.1	(35.0)
Canada	92.8	(17.8)	105.1	(16.2)
Australia (note 2)	66.5	(16.7)	53.6	(6.7)
Other overseas areas	120.8	(11.7)	141.0	(17.0)
Reinsurance	29.2	(14.8)	36.9	(22.0)
Marine and Aviation (worldwide)	153.0	(3.7)	144.2	(7.1)
	1,659.5	(183.4)	1,606.7	(198.7)
Reinsurance from Chubb Corporation	119.0	-	-	-
	1,778.5	(183.4)	1,606.7	(198.7)

Notes - (1) The U.S.A. figures for 1984 include the Phoenix's Continental pool business which was terminated on 1.1.1985.
(2) The 1985 results for Australia include the business of Phoenix Prudential (formerly an associated company) which became a wholly owned subsidiary with effect from 1.1.1985.

GENERAL INSURANCE UNDERWRITING RESULTS

The premium income for the year included a premium of £110m receivable under an excess of loss reinsurance agreement with Chubb Corporation relating to anticipated future claims in respect of discontinued U.S. medical malpractice business. This reinsurance, with a fixed limit of liability, was a non-recurring facility afforded to Chubb because of the Group's close association. Excluding this reinsurance premium, general business premium income increased by 3.3% in sterling terms. The underlying premium growth, after allowing for currency fluctuations and changes in the business portfolio was 19.2%.

At Home, the household results were badly affected by the severe weather at the beginning of the year and further adverse weather claims in December. Better results were achieved in commercial property classes, reflecting a reduction in the number of large fire losses, but substantial underwriting losses were suffered in both the commercial and private motor accounts.

In Europe, the deterioration was mainly attributable to sharply increased underwriting losses in Holland and unfavourable motor experience in Denmark.

In the U.S.A., most commercial lines are beginning to benefit from the improving market conditions but liability results remain unsatisfactory. The underwriting loss does not include the Group's additional claims provisions in respect of its own discontinued medical malpractice business which have been met by a transfer from retained profits.

In Canada, the result suffered from an increase in large property claims and continuing poor experience in the automobile account.

The increased underwriting loss in Australia was partly due to weather losses in Brisbane at the beginning of the year and in

addition there was a significant increase in the incidence of serious fires.

Elsewhere, a few territories showed improvement but results generally remained unsatisfactory.

The rundown of the Group's reinsurance business has continued but has necessitated some further strengthening in reserves.

LONG-TERM INSURANCE

Long-term insurance results were satisfactory, with particularly good growth achieved in the individual pensions market in the U.K. Good progress was also made in most overseas territories. The transfer to shareholders increased by 13% compared with 1984.

INVESTMENT INCOME

In sterling terms investment income showed a decrease of 12.4% but after allowing for the financing costs of the Phoenix acquisition, changes in the Group structure and currency fluctuations, the underlying growth was 13.0%.

SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS

The costs of integrating Phoenix's general business, estimated at £33.1m, have been dealt with through revaluation reserve. After providing for these costs and other reserve adjustments the Group's net assets at 31st December, 1985 amounted to £1,316m. The solvency margin was 74%, or 79% if the reinsurance premium from Chubb is excluded.

DIVIDEND

The Directors have resolved to declare at the Annual General Meeting on 21st May, 1986 a total dividend for 1985 of 17.5p per share. An interim dividend of 5.75p per share was paid on 8th January, 1986 and the final dividend of 11.75p per share will be paid on 7th July next.

The above statement is a summary of the year's results. The full audited Report and Accounts will be passed to shareholders on 25th April, 1986 and delivered to the Registrar of Companies after the Annual General Meeting.

2 April, 1986.

SUN ALLIANCE AND LONDON INSURANCE plc

Tarmac in £30m pavilion plan

By Judith Huntley

Tarmac Properties, part of Tarmac, the construction company based in the Midlands, has ambitious development plans.

It is taking the brave step of investing £30 million in a 300,000 sq ft office development in Brighton next to the Pavilion built for the Prince Regent in the eighteenth century. But there is nothing eighteenth century about the building planned by Tarmac Properties.

An application goes to the planners this week. Brighton Council would gain an ice rink and a big increase in car parking from the scheme.

Tarmac Properties is hoping for rents of £10.50 a sq ft on the development by the time it is completed in about three years. The company has just let a small amount of space in the town at £8.50 a sq ft.

Tarmac Properties must be hoping for another American Express, whose British head-

quarters is in Brighton, to take its new building or that an owner-occupier in the financial services field appears.

The company is exploring ways of financing the Brighton project with Morgan Grenfell Laurie. It may raise seven to 10-year money and then sell equity stakes in the completed and let development. Syndication is definitely in the company's mind.

Its joint venture with London & Edinburgh Trust, the fast growing property company, at Waterside Park in Bracknell, Berkshire, has taken a step nearer with the granting of planning permission for the 300,000 sq ft scheme.

Tarmac Properties, which says its pretax profits equal those of LET, its partner, is aiming for rents of £12 a sq ft at Waterside.

Mr Steve Reeves, head of Tarmac Properties, says that he would have been sceptical about achieving rents at that level a year ago but lettings in

the neighbourhood and growth seen so far have convinced him that £12 a sq ft is obtainable.

Hewlett Packard, the American computer company set a record rent for campus office space at Waterside by paying £10 a sq ft for 105,000 sq ft of space developed by LET on land bought from Tarmac. That was the beginning of the relationship between the two which led to the establishment of the joint company to develop the next 15 acre phase at Bracknell in a £50 million partnership.

Hewlett Packard, meanwhile, has just bought 25 acres of land only half a mile from Waterside, making it the largest owner-occupier purchase in the area.

Tarmac Properties has another large scheme under its belt at Cardiff where it plans to develop a £30 million retail, housing, leisure and office scheme with the help of a £10 million urban development grant.

Its central London office development next to Charing Cross Station, funded by Scottish Amicable, was taken by British Aerospace at a rent of £22 a sq ft, a figure which could have been higher had the covenant not been so good.

But the company has recently backed away from two potential schemes. It had planned to buy the Technicolour site close to London's Heathrow Airport and the Wilkinson Sword site at Poyle, Hampshire.

Tarmac Properties' future looks likely to stay within the parent company to which it contributes a mere 2.5 per cent of overall profits but a very visible profile.

Sir Eric Pountain, the chairman of Tarmac, is not willing to have off his property arm despite the speculation of some and desire of others to see it floated as a separate company on the stock market.

Guardian Royal Exchange Group Results for 1985

Subject to audit the results of the Guardian Royal Exchange Group for the year ended 31st December 1985 are as follows:

	1985 £m	1984 £m
Investment Income	193.6	202.7
Less Interest Payable	14.3	16.0
	179.3	186.7
Underwriting Results		
Short-term insurance business	(154.3)	(111.2)
Long-term insurance business	19.1	16.7
	(135.2)	(94.5)
Profit before loss on discontinued international professional indemnity business, taxation and extraordinary item	44.1	92.2
Loss on discontinued international professional indemnity business	(40.6)	-
Profit before taxation and extraordinary item	3.5	92.2
Less		
taxation	15.0	34.9
minority interests	2.3	3.0
	17.3	37.9
(Loss)/profit after taxation and before extraordinary item	(13.8)	54.3
Extraordinary item - contingency claims provision in respect of discontinued international professional indemnity business	(55.0)	-
(Loss)/profit transferred to retained profits	(68.8)	54.3
Earnings per ordinary share (after taxation and before extraordinary item)	(8.7)p	34.5p
Statement of retained profits		
Retained profits 1st January	373.7	345.5
(Loss)/profit for the year	(68.8)	54.3
	304.9	399.8
Ordinary Dividends		
Interim 9.00p per share	14.2	13.4
Proposed Final 19.75p per share	31.4	27.5
	45.6	40.9
Total	259.3	358.9
Contingency reinsurance fund profit	1.6	1
Profits less losses on investments sold less taxation	61.7	14.7
Retained profits 31st December	322.6	373.7

Results by Territories (before taxation)

	1985			1984		
	Net Premiums £m	Underwriting Result £m	Investment Income £m	Net Premiums £m	Underwriting Result £m	Investment Income £m
Australia	80.3	(9.9)	14.3	123.4	1.2	16.7
Canada	100.0	(16.6)	12.2	107.6	(11.5)	16.0
Germany	197.0	(9.6)	22.8	178.6	(7.0)	21.0
Republic of Ireland	35.7	2.6	5.2	24.9	(1.6)	4.5
South Africa	34.5	(2.0)	4.0	43.1	(2.1)	5.0
U.K.	459.7	(66.9)	70.9	388.0	(45.5)	69.8
U.S.A.	173.6	(20.2)	15.4	166.7	(19.1)	16.5
Miscellaneous	205.9	(31.7)*	34.5	206.3	(26.6)	37.2
	1,286.7	(154.3)	179.3	1,238.6	(111.2)	186.7

The territorial results are stated after reinsurance protection from group companies including protection under the worldwide stop loss arrangements. The 'Miscellaneous' underwriting result includes this reinsurance in respect of the territories shown opposite.

*Excluding loss on discontinued international professional indemnity business.

Exchange Rates

	1985	1984	1985	1984	1985	1984	
Australia	2.12	1.40	Germany	3.54	3.73	2.30	
Canada	2.02	1.53	Rep. of Ireland	1.16	1.17	U.S.A.	1.45

The Chairman's Statement last year referred to the adverse effect of professional negligence claims, particularly those written in London on an international basis involving leading accountancy firms. This class of business has been discontinued but large numbers of claims have continued to be notified on earlier years of account and estimates on many existing claims have been substantially increased. This has been shown as a separate item of £40.6m under loss on discontinued business. In some cases the contract provides however that we must continue to offer cover to existing clients for up to three years during the run-off period. To provide for any losses which may occur under this future commitment we have thought it prudent to make provision of a further £55m this year as an extraordinary item. The long tail nature of this business makes it difficult to estimate with accuracy, particularly in predicting the future of American legal practice, but we believe we have established a realistic estimate on the basis of current information. Tax relief will be dealt with as losses emerge and accordingly no deferred tax benefit has been assumed; the amount of tax relief on the contingency claims provision is estimated to be approximately £19m.

The short-term business underwriting results for the year were impacted severely by claims in the first half of 1985 from natural disasters in Australasia, a cyclone affecting Canada and the U.S.A. and heavier than usual weather related claims in the U.K., Germany and France. The short-term business underwriting results for the second half of 1985 however have shown a significant improvement over the underwriting results for the first six months of the year and in part reflect the corrective action which has been taken.

The underlying investment income growth was 7.4%. The profits from our long-term business have made a useful contribution to the results.

The effect of exchange rate movements has been to decrease net premiums by £165.7m, investment income by £21.3m and the short-term underwriting loss by £28.0m.

During the year, and in connection with the reclassification of our short-term business, home foreign business reported previously within our U.K. results is now reported as part of the Miscellaneous result. Comparative figures for 1984 have been adjusted accordingly.

Dividend

The financial strength of the Company has permitted the progressive dividend policy to be maintained and accordingly the Directors recommend the payment of a final dividend which, with the interim dividend paid in January 1986, will constitute an increase of 10.6% compared with the dividend paid to shareholders in respect of the year 1984.

If approved at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 28th May 1986 a payment at the rate of 19.75p per share (gross equivalent 27.82p) in respect of the final dividend will be made on 2nd July 1986 to holders of Ordinary shares whose names appear on the register at 3p.m. on 30th May 1986 making, with the interim payment in January last, a total of 28.75p (1984: 26.0p) per share (gross equivalent 40.67p; 1984: 37.14p).

The audited Annual Report and Accounts will be posted to shareholders on 1st May 1986 and delivered subsequently to the Registrar of Companies.

Guardian Royal Exchange plc
Royal Exchange, London EC3V 3LS



An insurance service worldwide

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

Industrial buildings show recovery signs

● Voids, or non-income producing industrial property, in institutional portfolios have fallen to 2 per cent by March this year, the first fall recorded by Hillier Parker, the chartered surveyor, since its records began in 1982.

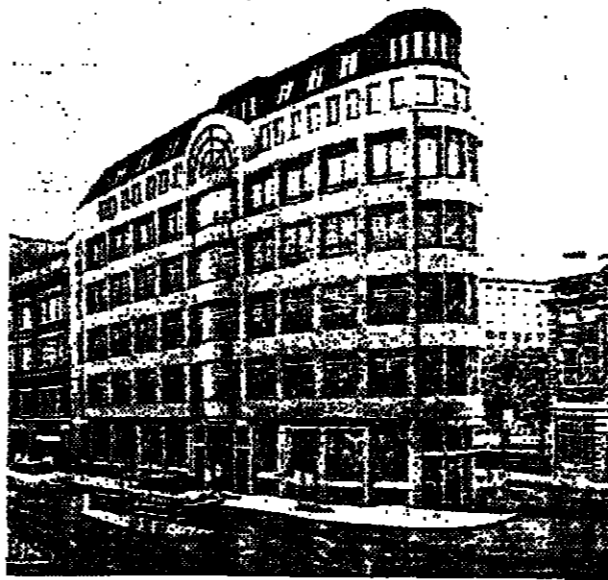
value of institutional portfolios. And the rate rises to 8 per cent when measured as a proportion of overall floorspace.

There is a 92-ft height restriction above ground, excluding the proposed atrium. Outline consent for the scheme could be given today, leaving the detailed design to be worked out.

Dissenters challenge units

By Judith Humley

The property industry's attempts to set up a market trading units in individual commercial properties continue apace, but there are still many doubts about the idea.



Speyhawk, the property company, has sold the freehold of its joint development at 71/77 Leadenhall Street and Mitre Street in the City of London for £20 million. The offices have been bought by the Swiss Reinsurance Group which will use the building as its London headquarters. Speyhawk developed the scheme with the Johnston Group, a Surrey builder. The property company will project manage the scheme. Swiss Reinsurance is to sell Speyhawk its former City offices at 108 Cannon Street for £11 million for the 22,000 sq ft freehold building. Speyhawk is to redevelop the site which formerly belonged to MEPC. Sinclair Goldsmith and Mellish & Harding are the letting agents for Cannon Street.

Scrimgeour Vickers, the stockbroker, has joined the dissenters by asking whether such a market would even be profitable.

Law Report April 3 1986

Appellant need not attend if represented

Regina v Croydon Crown Court, Ex parte Claire. Lord Justice Croom-Johnson and Mr Justice Mann (Judgment given March 19).

It was quite clear that the defendant could appear by counsel if he wished but there was no strong obligation to be present himself.

Industrial injury in removing danger

McGovern v British Steel Corporation. Before Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Neill and Lord Justice Ralph Gibson (Judgment given March 21).

Those events might involve the intervention of some human action; it would then be necessary to examine whether the intervention was a natural and probable consequence of the breach and, if so, whether the conduct of the intervenor was such as to break the chain of causation.

Erasure of program is criminal act

Cox v Riley. Justices who found that a defendant had deliberately erased a computer program from the plastic circuit card of a computerised saw so as to render the saw inoperable, had properly found the defendant guilty of criminal damage under section 1(1) of the Criminal Damage Act 1971.

that the programme was not tangible within section 10(1) of the Act and that erasing it did not amount to damage.

Financial aid provision is retrospective

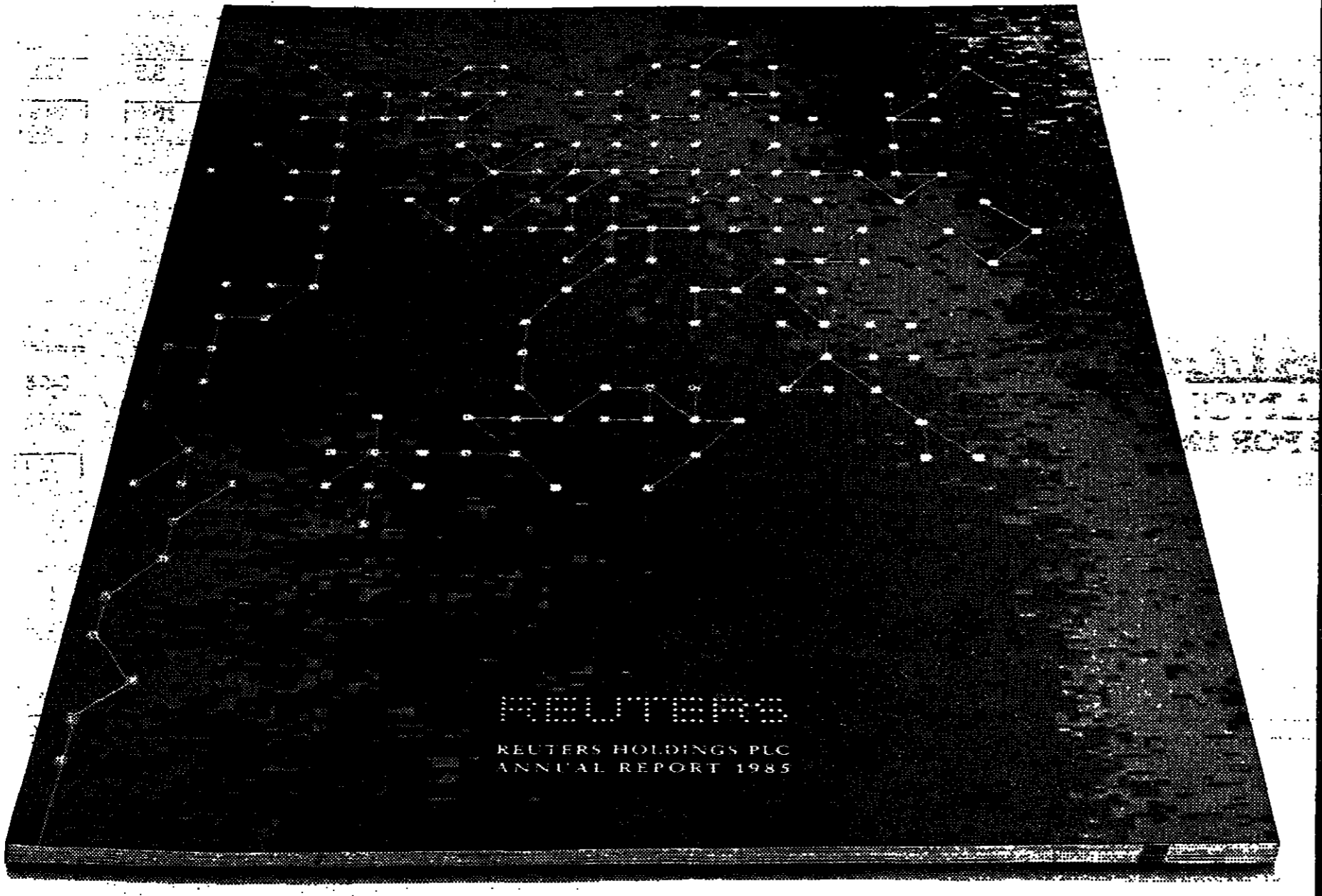
Chebarov v Chebarov. The provisions of section 12 of the Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Act 1984 were retrospective and the court had jurisdiction thereunder to entertain an application for leave to apply for financial relief by a former wife against the former husband notwithstanding that the marriage between the parties had been dissolved overseas before September 16, 1985, the date that the 1984 Act came into force.

Mr Justice Sheldon so held in the Family Division on March 26 when granting leave to the applicant to apply for financial relief from her former husband who had been granted a decree of divorce in Lebanon on April 16, 1985, the validity of which would be recognised in England and Wales.

September sittings

Practice Direction. Exercising his powers under Order 64, rule 2(1) of the Rules of the Supreme Court, and with the concurrence of the Lord Chancellor, Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, directed on March 18 that the Court of Appeal (Civil Division) should sit during the month of September in 1986 and in future years until further notice.

Results of The Law Society winter examination will be published tomorrow.



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To qualify, you must have 5+ years in data processing with IBM VM/CMS experience and programming abilities, preferably BAL (Assembler), and/or C, in addition to 4th generation language skills (FOCUS, RAVEN, NOMAD, etc.). You should be an independent thinker with proven management talent, strong communications skills and broad-based technical talents.

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Applications are invited for the Office of COMMON CRYER AND SERJEANT-AT-ARMS. Candidates should be between 45 and 55 years of age, have administrative and ceremonial experience, preferably a University degree or similar higher educational qualifications and knowledge of one or more foreign languages. Service background with staff training would be an advantage.

The duties are administrative and secretarial, and also entail: attendance upon the Lord Mayor; bearing the Mace on Ceremonial occasions; attendance on overseas visits; making Public Proclamations.

The salary will be within the scale of £14,904 per annum rising by four annual increments to £16,344 inclusive.

The successful candidate will be required to take up the appointment in January 1987.

This post is subject to the LMGSC ring fence procedure: with their agreement it is being offered on an unrestricted basis. Applications are invited from anyone with appropriate qualifications and experience but priority will be given to ex-employees of the G.L.C. or the M.C.C.S.

Application form, particulars and details of duties may be obtained from the Town Clerk, Corporation of London, P.O. Box 270, Guildhall, London. EC2P 2EJ. Telephone 01-406 3030 Extension 2431 or 2432, and should be returned to him by 9th May 1986.

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Medical Director Pharmaceuticals £ negotiable

The responsibilities in this post are to manage all medical aspects of the organisation's academic, media, professional, research and regulatory relationships, and to provide first class advisory and information services for colleagues, prescribers and others.

Candidates who are 45-plus, working in industry or government and earning c £35/40,000 are likely to be interested in this demanding assignment. Base: south east.

Please write in complete confidence to Roger Stephens, who is advising, or telephone him for a private initial discussion. Ref. 8606.

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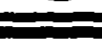
Reporting to the Managing Director, the successful applicant will be expected to lead and motivate a successful sales force and make a significant contribution to overall strategy planning and also certain export responsibilities.

Candidates either male or female, preferably of graduate calibre, must possess an exceptional track record in Sales Management within the refrigerator industry or closely related fields.

An attractive salary package, including a company car is offered, together with location assistance to this very pleasant area of North West England.

Please apply in strict confidence, giving full details of CV including current salary to:

Mr. J.B. Milnes
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Ideally in your 30's, you'll have already demonstrated a talent for management and first-rate communication skills in a commercial environment — not

necessarily in health care, although this would naturally be an advantage. Certainly a commitment to the concepts of private and preventive medicine is essential. This is an excellent opportunity with genuine prospects in a progressive, successful and expanding company which is always receptive to new ideas. A benefits package including non-contributory pension, mortgage subsidy and, of course, free BUPA will be offered.

Do you have the blend of skills to meet this challenge? Let us know by writing with full CV to: Kate South, Personnel Manager, BUPA Medical Centre, Bottle Bridge House, 391 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8DU. Tel: 01-837 6484.



CURATORIAL OFFICER GRADE E/F

The Royal Armouries is looking for a qualified and experienced person to join the research staff of the National Museum of Arms and Armour.

The person appointed will assist the research, cataloguing, publications and exhibitions, answer enquiries, and help in the large study collections.

Applicants should normally have a degree, preferably with first or second class honours in History or History of Art, an equivalent or higher qualification, but exceptional candidates having extensive practical experience in the field of arms and armour will also be considered. A working knowledge of at least one modern foreign language is essential.

Salary: Grade E £8,452 to £11,265 p.a. Grade F £6,303 to £8,917 p.a.

In addition there is a London Weighting Allowance of £1,365 p.a. Starting salary according to qualifications and experience.

Further details and application form can be obtained from Miss S.J. Wilson, Personnel Section, Royal Armouries, 124 Tower of London, EC3N 4AB, or telephone: 01-490 6358 Ext 352. Please quote ref. T.C.R.

Closing date for receipt of applications is Friday 2nd May 1986.

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MAJOR INTERNATIONAL BANK

For this appointment we require candidates of graduate calibre, aged 26-32, with not less than five years' in major advanced systems development in an international corporate environment, with management responsibilities. Ideally, this will have been gained within the banking sector but applicants with proven experience in the design of other large, complex, integrated financial/management accounting suites using structured methodology and fourth generation languages will be considered. A broad understanding of IBM and other leading mainframes, operating systems and applications software is necessary. Reporting to the M.I.S. Manager, the successful candidate will be responsible for all aspects of the management of a team charged with the design, development and installation of a new, sophisticated accounting/information system. Technical excellence is essential plus the ability to operate under pressure and establish a high level of user confidence with the minimum of direction and supervision. Initial salary negotiable £24,000 - £30,000, mortgage facility, pension, life assurance, family medical cover and assistance with relocation expenses. Applications in strict confidence under reference PMN4405/TT to the Managing Director, CJA.

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WEST END £18,000 - £22,000 + CAR

A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY IN A MAJOR, EXPANDING INTERNATIONAL HOTELS AND CATERING GROUP

For this new appointment, we seek candidates of graduate calibre, aged 27-35, with a background in the marketing of l.m.c.g. or consumer services with successful organisations in these fields noted for their marketing methods. This must include at least 4 years as a Brand Manager or equivalent, accountable for all aspects of the marketing function, including profit responsibility, with additional sales experience advantageous. Reporting to the Group Marketing Executive, the successful candidate will spearhead the relaunch and major development of an existing charge card operation servicing all divisions of this diverse Group and targeted at both the corporate client and the general public. Essential qualities are an enquiring, analytical mind, communication skills, commercial flair and the ability to achieve results. Initial salary negotiable £18,000 - £22,000, car, contributory pension, life assurance, free family BUPA and assistance with relocation. Applications in strict confidence under reference GMM4407/TT to the Managing Director, CJA.

BRANCH LIAISON OFFICER

LONDON £16,000-£20,000 + CAR
INSTITUTE OF DIRECTORS

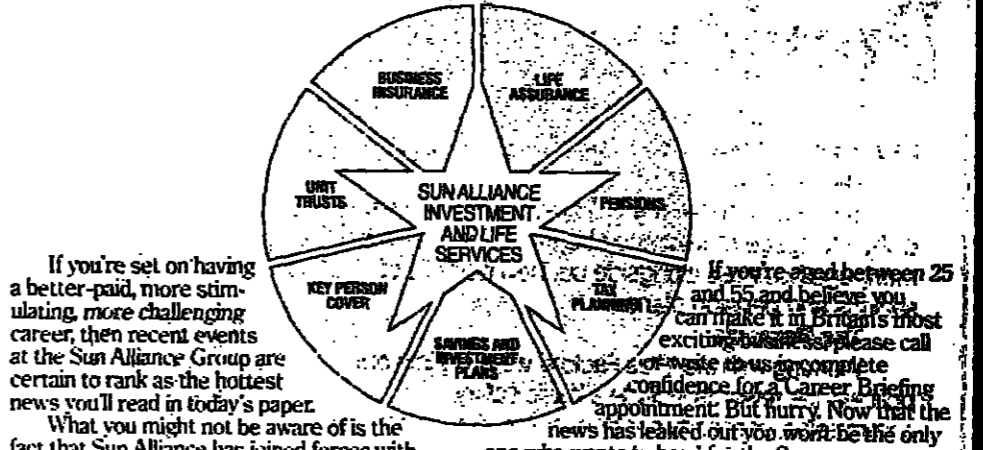
A demanding, interesting and autonomous appointment

On behalf of our clients, we invite applications for this important position from experienced Administrators, aged 30-45, who have first hand knowledge of, and sympathy with, the interests of leaders in the business community, who comprise the membership of the IOD. The Branch Liaison Officer, as the link between the Institute's headquarters and its 38 branches (UK and overseas), will attend branch meetings and give guidance on a wide range of policy issues and administrative matters, such as finance, arrangements for speakers, committee elections etc. An additional important aspect will be the channelling of the IOD's Policies to its membership and, in turn, conveying their views to the IOD's officials and departments. Important personal attributes will include commercial awareness, the ability to get on with people in an advisory and problem-solving capacity, combined with stamina and self-motivation. Initial salary negotiable £16,000-£20,000 + car, non-contributory pension with free life assurance, free medical insurance. Applications, in strict confidence, under reference BL04409/TT, to the Managing Director, CJA.

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Career opportunities open up as Sun Alliance Group moves into new era

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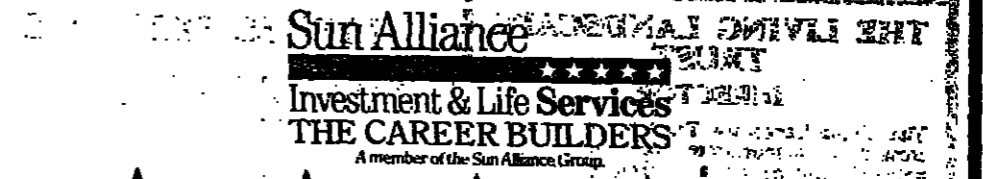


If you're set on having a better-paid, more stimulating, more challenging career, then recent events at the Sun Alliance Group are certain to rank as the hottest news you'll read in today's paper.

What you might not be aware of is the fact that Sun Alliance has joined forces with Phoenix Assurance Group and Property Growth Assurance to form one of the most powerful financial organisations in Great Britain today.

Sun Alliance Investment and Life Services, one of the Group's vital national sales teams, are offering excellent opportunities to people who'd like to succeed in the UK's fastest-growing and most dynamic industry.

If you join us as one of our direct sales consultants, you'll be trained to give people valuable advice on how our plans can help them. And you'll benefit from a career which promises unlimited earnings potential, first rate promotion prospects and lifelong security.



Contact Derek Forbes on 01-680 0606 or write to him at Sun Alliance Investment and Life Services, Leas House, High Street, Croydon CR9 1LU.

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Can you recruit, train and motivate? I can and I earn over £8,000 per month. If you can, phone 01-938 2056.

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The Company is very successful and expanding all over the world. The ideal candidate will already have proven track record in the cosmetics/skincare or related market. An extraordinary remuneration package will be offered.

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HORIZONS

A guide to career development

Reading between the lines

Recently I found myself discussing the recruitment process with a friend of several years' standing...

One day his Head of Department took him aside and drew his attention to a vacancy notice in the 'Times Educational Supplement'...

"I've seen it," my friend replied. "In fact, I was going to ask whether you thought I should apply for it."

"Go ahead, my boy," said the other. "It's yours."

I am sure that most job-hunters can cite instances from their own experience where a job vacancy was as good as filled before it was even advertised.

The fact of the matter is that some organisations - particularly public sector ones - publicise their vacancies as a matter of course.

All is fair, it seems, in love, war and the job market, and the only way to come out on top is to perfect your job finding strategy.

Vacancies in an expanding field

with the identification of a suitable vacancy and understanding what the advertisement really means.

When you see a senior post advertised, do you ever wonder why it is up for grabs? Is this, in fact, a genuine vacancy open to all comers...

Short of enlisting the services of a private investigator there is no sure way of finding out. But you can hazard a few guesses...

If the vacancy occurs in an expanding organisation or field, for example, then you need have no qualms about applying for it.

On the other hand, if a company or institution is experiencing slow growth...

Understanding some job advertisements can often be a complex matter. R.A. Jones looks at some of the ways to interpret recruitment ads

- or even contracting - be prepared for disappointment. For here you are likely to be up against candidates from within the firm...

Recruitment advertising can be quite a costly business, so many firms - particularly small ones - do not advertise unless they need to.

The same goes for vacancies handled by recruitment agencies. A sensible firm does not spend perhaps thousands of pounds on commissions to outside consultants...

Outside consultants generally have a more objective idea of a particular post than the firm itself, and this can work in the applicant's favour.

If the vacancy notice emanates from the company itself, you may need to scrutinise the wording with care.

At the other end of the scale the "young, dynamic hi-tech company" is in need of "an experienced accountant"...

To either confirm or refute your guesswork you need to get hold of past reports and any other literature relating to the firm to which you are applying.

This is an important point. There is no point in joining an outfit where you'll be a square peg in a round hole.

back on the dole within a matter of months.

To change the subject slightly, have you ever had the experience of being turned down for a post and then seen it re-advertised?

The vacancy, after all, could have resurfaced for any number of reasons.

The recurrent advertisement could signify a number of things. A company may, for example, advertise even if it has no vacancies in prospect...

On the other hand such an ad could mean that the organisation has difficulty in recruiting or retaining staff...

Or perhaps the selectors feel that their first trawl has not brought in sufficient

When appointment is a foregone conclusion

applicants of the calibre they hoped for, so they are having another attempt at recruitment.

By this stage you may be starting to regard every job notice you see with the profoundest mistrust...

By all means scrutinise each ad with care, but do not admit defeat before you even start your application.

Even if you find out that a certain appointment is a foregone conclusion, there is no reason why you should not apply.

If you were to express an interest in Joe's old job, you would certainly be given credit for initiative and ingenuity...

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You are a leading financial institution which realises the impact Personal Computers are about to make on the financial sector...

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HOLDING & MANAGEMENT LIMITED
require a COMPANY SECRETARY/ACCOUNTANT
We administer and manage large blocks of flats from our office in Kensington...

GOVERNMENT SENIOR
require a Chartered Accountant to manage the accounts department...

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

Kingston & Esher Health Authority
UNIT GENERAL MANAGER (ACUTE UNIT)
The Authority which serves a population of 180,000 needs to appoint a General Manager to take personal responsibility for the management and development of services for the Acute Unit...

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Salaries to £28K plus car
Touche Ross & Co, one of the world's largest and most progressive firms of Chartered Accountants, is experiencing significant growth in the demand for its Audit and specialist Audit Services.

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Applicants should be Chartered Accountants, aged up to 35, with relevant experience in public practice, in financial institutions or in the corporate finance department of a large corporation.

Career prospects for ambitious candidates with partnership potential are excellent.

Write or phone now to Raymond Hurley for more information at-

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Telephone: 01-353 8011

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Jonathan Wren is currently handling a number of senior operational positions on behalf of its major clients.

Senior Credit Analyst £18-£25,000
Successful international bank requires a highly experienced banker with a comprehensive knowledge of credit appraisal.

Junior Credit Analyst £10-£15,000
A large European bank seeks an experienced Credit Analyst with experience gained within a banking environment.

For the above 2 vacancies contact Richard Meehan or Trevor Williams. All applications will be treated in strict confidence.

Jonathan Wren

Recruitment Consultants
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You must be enthusiastic, articulate, professional and have the drive and ambition to succeed in this highly competitive market.

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If you would like to tune into the 90's in your selling career, then write enclosing a full C.V. to:

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You will probably be in your mid-thirties with sound management accounting experience, which must include budgeting, financial planning and variance analysis.

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PHONE 01-575 7070 NOW!

EXPERIENCED MEDICAL SECRETARY

Required for busy Wimpole Street Orthopaedic Surgical Practice. Starting salary £9,500 with review and benefits.

ALSO PART TIME MEDICAL SECRETARY
required for this Practice. Audio Typing & some reception work. Approximately 3 days per week. Good salary by arrangements.

Telephone 01-935-2349

ROYAL HOUSEHOLD

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Salary starting between £5,465 and £7,179 depending on age and rising by annual increments to £8,276 (plus London Allowance). The post is pensionable and offers 22 days paid holiday p.a. Free lunch. Periodic available.

Please apply in writing, enclosing CV to: The Secretary, Lord Chamberlain's Office, St. James's Palace, London SW1

IMPERIAL COLLEGE SOUTH KENSINGTON

College leaver/Junior Secretary required for busy modern Departmental Office in Mechanical Engineering Department.

Cheerful personality and ability to work with students and academic staff. Good promotion prospects. Four weeks holiday plus extra days at Christmas and Easter. Salary in range of £6,110 to £7,171.

Applications to: Mrs K.M. Dean, Departments of Mechanical Engineering, Imperial College, Exhibition Road, London SW7 2BZ.

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We are a leading firm of Chartered Accountants, and are currently expanding our Tax Consultancy team. We are looking for an innovative, commercially-minded VAT Consultant who would be responsible for assignments ranging from large international companies to small businesses, frequently liaising at senior management level.

Assignments will include planning, general advisory work and negotiating with Customs & Excise. The position will also include extensive liaison with other national and international offices of the firm.

The successful candidate is likely to have a degree and/or professional qualification; a detailed technical knowledge of VAT procedures, as well as a general understanding of other taxes and computers.

A competitive salary, together with managerial benefits, is offered. Applicants should apply for an application form or send their Curriculum Vitae direct to:

Miss E. O'Hare, Personnel Manager, Spicer and Pegler, Friary Court, 65 Crutched Friars, London EC3N 2NP (01-480 7766 ext. 2294).

Spicer and Pegler Chartered Accountants

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to £30,000 + car
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An ideal commencing point for a graduate ACA to start a career in Merchant Banking, working in a high profile, internationally prominent organisation in Eurobond issues. Ref: RS0018.

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Telephone: 01 256 5041 (out of hours 01 809 2783)

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£7,668 - £10,282 pa, incl. LW
Following a series of internal promotions the Medical Research Council is seeking to recruit a small number of Executive Officers to work at the Headquarters' office near Roehampton Park.

Conditions include 22 days annual leave plus 10% days public and private leave, contributory pension scheme with pay supplement, flexible working hours and career break loan.

Write to Mrs E. Price, 20 Park Crescent, London W1N 4AL, for further details and an application form, quoting reference P1002/181.

Closing date for receipt of completed application forms is 21 April 1986.

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JAPANESE BOARDING SCHOOL
Near Newmarket requires an experienced full time chef, ability to cook Japanese meals for the students essential.

Apply in writing with C.V. to: Mr Y. Yamamoto, Marriage Agency, 20-22, Norfolk Street, London, W1P 6JG.

ADAPTABLE COOK to run kitchen in French Chateau Villa, June to September. In a quiet area. Phone after 5pm 01-871 2609.

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Student required for two hours night housekeeping weekly and to prepare a dinner party approximately once a week. Must be excellent cook and highly responsible as the employer, a Merchant Bank Director, is away for much of the time.

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requires trainees to participate in a three month training course, to include stocks, US bonds and currencies. No previous relevant experience necessary required, but training requires a consistent and disciplined character with a sense of humour who can thrive under sustained pressure. In order to cover costs a salary will be made for the course. Please send CV's to: BOX 527, The Times, PO Box 464, Virginia St. London E1.

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to help run business on small Berkshire farm. Car driver essential. Tel: 0734 744369

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DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS WANTED
VERSATILE GIRL, qualified cook with 10 years experience in catering. Excellent references. Good salary. Write or call for more information. Tel: 01-256 5041.

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Based Exeter (Ref. 9542/T)
Based Plymouth (Ref. 9543/T)

Radio Times

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£8,377 - £11,385*

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(Ref. 9531/T)

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Radio Devon
Radio Newcastle
Radio Norfolk
Radio Oxford

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Salaries: £8,526 - £10,591*

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(This vacancy may initially be on a 12 month contract)

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Radio Norfolk (based Norwich) (Ref. 9510/T)
Radio Oxford (Ref. 9502/T)

*Plus allowance of £569 p.a. **Plus allowance of £971 p.a. Recruitment expenses considered for permanent posts. Contact us immediately for application form (quote appropriate ref. and address s.c.l.a.) BBC Appointments, London W1A 1AA. Tel. 01-277 5759.

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This leading practice provides a comprehensive domestic and international legal service to commerce, industry and financial institutions. They now wish to appoint a Business Analyst to develop and co-ordinate the strategic business plan for the firm.

Reporting to the Director of Administration, the key tasks of this challenging post will be: to act as the day to day project leader in developing the plan, to provide business data and analysis relevant to the firm's business and the evolving plan, and undertake regular internal surveys to assess the firm's needs.

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Candidates should write enclosing a full CV and quoting reference MCS/1002 to Michael Madgwick Executive Selection Division Price Waterhouse Management Consultants Southwark Towers 32 London Bridge Street London SE1 9SL

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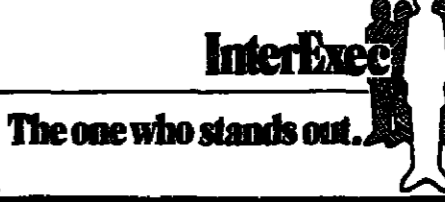
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The one who stands out.

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RACING: GOLD CUP RUNNER-UP SHOULD NOW BE AT PEAK FOR RETURN CLASH WITH DAWN RUN

Wayward Lad on course for revenge

By Maudarin (Michael Phillips)

The spirit of National Hunt racing is embodied in today's Whitbread Gold Label Chase at Liverpool and Dawn Run and Wayward Lad taking on one another again just three weeks after their epic race in the Toté Gold Cup at Cheltenham.

Were this a Flat race, the chances are that one of the two would have ducked the issue for fear of being beaten - sadly that has become one of the trends of the commercial climate in which that part of the sport backs these days.

In napping Wayward Lad to beat Dawn Run this time and thus take his revenge on the great Irish mare, I am putting my faith in the opinion of his jockey, Graham Bradley. After the Gold Cup, having paid due tribute to Dawn Run, Bradley said that Wayward Lad had been able to have a race since Boxing Day.

The Saturday before Cheltenham, Bradley told me that Sandown that he thought Wayward Lad would run really well but, deep down, he felt the lack of a preparatory race would find him out. And so it proved. Ridden to perfection, Wayward Lad came to win his race only to falter in those last agonizing yards and succumb to Dawn Run's late counter-attack.

Now, with a recent race under his belt, he should be at his peak and I take him to cut Dawn Run down to size at the end of a slightly shorter race on a course less demanding than Cheltenham.

The mare will almost certainly have to make all her own running again. That should suit Bradley down to the ground because he will want to sit on her tail and wait as long as possible before he tries to beat her for speed over and after the last. These were the tactics that John Francoeur used to such effect on Wayward Lad on this very occasion 12 months ago and I think that they will prove successful again.

For Very Promising, the gallant runner-up to Buck House in the Queen Mother Champion Chase over two



Wayward Lad demonstrates the jumping ability which has helped him to win the King George VI Chase three times

Handicap Hurdle with Indamelay. Although he looks the epitome of a chaser, my selection is happier when he is hurdling. He was certainly far from disgraced in his last race at Uttoxeter when failing to give 24lb to Water Cannon, whose young rider managed to give his rivals the slip that day. Also, by taking direct form lines through Teledracer, who was runner-up to Riva Rose at Ludlow and second to Canute Express at Chepstow; and Canute Express, who was fourth to River Ceirig at Cheltenham it is possible to argue that there is little between today's principals. So, the 4lb allowance today looks crucial. No matter how River Ceirig fares, Nicky Henderson, his trainer, and Steve Smith Eccles, his jockey, should not leave the track unrewarded as they have an excellent chance of winning the Whitbread Pale Ale

Classified changes hands on eve of National meeting

By Michael Seely

Classified, fifth in last year's Grand National, will race under new ownership at Aintree on Saturday. The 10-year-old was bought for an undisclosed sum in a private deal yesterday and will run in the colours of the Cheveley Park Stud. The deal was handled by David Milstun, who acts as racing manager to the Newmarket stud owners. He said: "It will be their first runner in the race. They just fancied the idea of a runner in the Grand National. It's a bit of a fresher horse than when he ran in the race last year and performed well at Cheltenham last time." The horse stays in training with Nicky Henderson at Lambourn and will be partnered by Steve Smith Eccles on Saturday.

Cheveley Park, who stand the 16-1 and 14-1 respectively. Hills have West Tip as their clear favourite at 8-1 but Ladbrokes make Mr Souffit their market leader at the same price following support for Mick Barber's nine-year-old yesterday.

William Crump keeps Mullion flag flying

From Our Irish Racing Correspondent, Dublin

The colours of Mrs Jim Mullion are much better known in the Flat racing world than to jumping enthusiasts as the products of her Aintree stud in Co. Kildare have won classic races in Ireland, England and France. However, at Fairyhouse yesterday, one of the few hurdlers she has in training, William Crump, pulled the front-runners in the Hazzard Handicap Hurdle. For the greater part of the race Ararat threatened to turn it into a procession as he bowled along a Cazen lengths clear. But Over 15 was another instance, though, where the form book and not the betting money proved the more accurate guide to the outcome. Meanwhile, looking towards the future of Aintree, the course manager, John Haynes, said in an interview on Irish television yesterday that they would not be looking for extra racing dates for Aintree for at least another four to five years. "There is still a lot of work to be done," he said.

SQUASH RACKETS

Cannons throw down the gauntlet

By Colin McQuillan

Cannons Club, having won the fiercely contested American Express premier squash league on a countback to games difference, yesterday threw the competition back into the melting pot by challenging Ardleigh Hall, their leadership rivals throughout the second half of the season, to a match for the combined first and second prizes.

Clarry Oliver, manager of the fashionable London sports club, wants to meet the Ardleigh Hall team on the all-transparent Perspex showcourt at Wembley during this month's British Open Championships for a match purse of £4,500.

"The excitement of this league was incredible right up to the last match of the final fixture," Oliver said. "His players won 13 matches and lost five during the season, winning 55 individual ties and losing 35." Ardleigh Hall finished with the same statistics and actually won two more games than us, but our games difference at 193 won and 145 lost was better than theirs at 195 to 165.

To cap it all, Cannons lost to the runners-up who based in Colchester, both home and away. "They were just unlucky that the rules call for games difference instead of games won," Oliver continued. "We are not about to give up the Arnie Trophy, but we can offer Ardleigh Hall the chance of winning the big prize."

Cannons defeated Edgworth Priory 4-1 to make sure of the title, but were forced to wait anxiously for fifteen minutes before hearing from Ardleigh that Martin Bodimead had lost narrowly to Geoff Williams in his last match and against Manchester Northern. A Bodimead win would have taken the trophy to Essex by one point. Defeat led to the unfortunate countback.

The fortunes of Ardleigh Hall do not end there. The club is facing a far worse fate than the team, with the owners, a local building consortium, threatening to demolish the building and redevelop it as an old people's home, unless a buyer with £250,000 appears by April 13.

There is a plan for 100 club members to buy life membership at £3,000 each and thus remove Ardleigh Hall permanently from the commercial sector. The challenge from Cannons, Oliver believes, might allow the premier league players to make their own contribution to that scheme.

RESULTS: Edgworth Priory 1 Cannons 4; Ardleigh Hall 3, Manchester Northern 2; Chapel Allerton 4, Redwood Lodge 1; Harewood 5, Darlington Mill 6; South Shields 5, Arley 0. Final League Position: 1, Cannons 61 pts; 2, Ardleigh Hall 57; 3, Chapel Allerton 52; 4, Northampton 49; 5, South Leamside 46; 6, Manchester Northern 47; 7, Edgworth Priory 45; 8, Redwood Lodge 32.

CRICKET Cup winners to receive more money

Half of this year's £4,000 increased Benson and Hedges Cup prize money will go to the winners. The winning county in the final on July 12, a week earlier than normal to avoid clashing with the British Open golf championship - will collect £19,000. The losers will receive £2,000. The Benson and Hedges £2.4 million cash awards come out of the £422,000 sponsorship fee paid to the Test and County Cricket Boards by Benson and Hedges. As agreed at the meeting of the TCBC last month, rain-affected matches will be decided by a five-a-side bowling competition.

Easy win for Sri Lanka

Kandy (Reuters) - An unbeaten 68-run stand between Ranatunga and Gurusinghe helped Sri Lanka to an easy seven-wicket win over Bangladesh and a place in the three-nation Asia Cup tournament final here yesterday.

Sri Lanka, after restricting Bangladesh to 131 for eight in 45 overs, replied with 132 for three in 31.3 overs, and will meet Pakistan in the final on Sunday.

Taunton selections

2.15 Miss Never Hyde. 2.50 Ivantsev. 3.25 Ring Lou. 4.0 Sir Keavins. 4.35 Beatty Heath. 5.5 Ring Lou.

5.5 WEST MONKTON HANDICAP CHASE (€2,078: 2m 11) (10)

1 0001 WARNER FOR LEISURE (B) D R Gaudin 8-13 (10) Mr L Harvey (7) 2 00 ROYAL BEAT (B) J H Baker 11-13 Mr L Harvey (7) 3 00 FREEMAN G L Williams 7-11-3 Mr B Dowling (7) 4 00 MILLER HOUSE (B) D H Barone 8-11-3 Mr B Dowling (7) 5 00 POP O' DAY (USA) J Thorne 6-11-3 L Bloomfield (4) 6 00 ROWLANDS LAD P J Hodge 6-11-3 Peter Hobbs 7 00 WELSH O'LEO J D H Lyle 11-10-4 P Gannon 8 00 FOUR SPORT J Cox 4-11-2 V McKeown 9 00 DUSTY RUN R P Shephard 6-10-12 Mr C Smallman 10 00 GLENN'S SLIPPER (B) E Koe 10-12 George Knight 11 00 WHITE PINE (B) Miss A Lingard 6-10-12 Miss V Williams (7) 12 00 BUTTS BAY J A Cox 4-10-11 Mr C Woodcock (7) 13 00 RING-LOU (B) J A Edwards 11-11-2 P Barton 14 00 STORMY (B) T M Jones 10-10-12 A Macgregor 15 00 TWIN BEARS (B) T M Jones 10-10-12 A Macgregor 16 00 GLENN'S SLIPPER (B) E Koe 10-12 George Knight 17 00 ROYAL CASINO J D Roberts 9-10-4 R Williams 18 00 ROYAL CASINO J D Roberts 9-10-4 R Williams 19 00 ROYAL CASINO J D Roberts 9-10-4 R Williams 20 00 ROYAL CASINO J D Roberts 9-10-4 R Williams

LIVERPOOL BBC

Teletext: BBC1: 2.35, 3.10. BBC2: 3.45, 4.20.

Going: good to soft (National course); good (hurdles, Millmay)

2.0 WHITBREAD BEST SCOTCH NOVICE HURDLE (€5,536: 2m) (17 runners) 100 1001 RIVER CEIRIG (B) R McKeown 11-11-4 101 0101 DONNATEE (B) M J Williams 5-11-0 102 0102 DONNATEE (B) M J Williams 5-11-0 103 0103 DONNATEE (B) M J Williams 5-11-0 104 0104 DONNATEE (B) M J Williams 5-11-0 105 0105 DONNATEE (B) M J Williams 5-11-0 106 0106 DONNATEE (B) M J Williams 5-11-0 107 0107 DONNATEE (B) M J Williams 5-11-0 108 0108 DONNATEE (B) M J Williams 5-11-0 109 0109 DONNATEE (B) M J Williams 5-11-0 110 0110 DONNATEE (B) M J Williams 5-11-0 111 0111 DONNATEE (B) M J Williams 5-11-0 112 0112 DONNATEE (B) M J Williams 5-11-0 113 0113 DONNATEE (B) M J Williams 5-11-0 114 0114 DONNATEE (B) M J Williams 5-11-0 115 0115 DONNATEE (B) M J Williams 5-11-0 116 0116 DONNATEE (B) M J Williams 5-11-0 117 0117 DONNATEE (B) M J Williams 5-11-0 118 0118 DONNATEE (B) M J Williams 5-11-0 119 0119 DONNATEE (B) M J Williams 5-11-0 120 0120 DONNATEE (B) M J Williams 5-11-0 121 0121 DONNATEE (B) M J Williams 5-11-0 122 0122 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FOOTBALL: EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP DRAW HAS THE INGREDIENTS TO KEEP EVERYBODY HAPPY

England game gives Irish joy and Turkish delight

By Clive White
There was happiness in the Northern Ireland camp when they were drawn to open their European championship challenge with a home game against England...

It was in November at Wembley, amid foreign fears of collusion, that Northern Ireland scored the point they needed to qualify for the World Cup finals in Mexico this summer...

Yugoslavia, like Romania before them, are the more seriously threatened party and will have noted with relief that the English and Irish will be done with their domestic disputes by the third match of their five.

David Bowen, secretary of the Northern Ireland FA, said: "This draw could not be better for us. We wanted to start with a home game against England..."

Ardiles' testimonial has to be postponed
Tottenham Hotspur have been ordered not to go ahead with their testimonial match for Ossie Ardiles against Rangers at White Hart Lane on April 22...

The Tottenham secretary, Peter Day, said yesterday: "Our police objected to the testimonial on the grounds that it would encourage Scottish supporters to come down early for the international. We will still play Rangers in a testimonial for Ossie, but on a different date."



Outjumping a Grasshopper: Diego Maradona, under pressure from Raimondo Ponte, lets fly during Argentina's tour match against Zurich Grasshoppers on Tuesday evening. Argentina won 1-0.

Brazil win but fail to impress

Brazil, down to 10 men after 30 minutes following the dismissal of their left winger, started their series of home World Cup warm-up matches with an easy but unconvincing 4-0 victory over a rejuvenated Peru in Sao Paulo...

Despite dominating throughout, the Brazilians looked far from impressive and committed similar errors to those that led to defeats against West Germany and Hungary on their recent brief European tour.

But it was only in the later stages that Brazil drew home their advantage. First Alberto scored from the penalty spot after Muller had been brought down from behind by Issouki...

Burtenshaw's unhappy start

Sieve Burtenshaw's unhappy start as Arsenal's caretaker manager continued as his side were beaten for the second time in 24 hours by Watford on Tuesday night.

After going down 2-0 at Highbury on Easter Monday, Arsenal were defeated 3-0 by an injury-hit Watford side, whose goals came from Scullie, Jackett (penalty) and Allen.

Southampton, who face Liverpool in the FA Cup semi-finals on Saturday, did not give their confidence much of a boost by struggling to a 1-1 home draw against relegation-threatened Oxford United.

Wednesday worry over Hodge

Sheffield Wednesday, who contest an FA Cup semi-final against Everton at Villa Park on Saturday, have injury doubts about their goalkeeper and captain, Martin Hodge.

Hodge, a former Everton player, said: "I think I should be fit. If I were to miss this match it would feel like six years' hard work down the drain."

The reserve goalkeeper, Hesford, has been placed on standby. Smith, out for the last five games with a foot strain, Chapman (stomach virus) and Shelton (foot injury), should all be fit for the semi-final.

West German recall for Bayern veteran

Frankfurt (AP) - Dieter Hoenes, West Germany's veteran forward, has been recalled by the national team for the first time in seven years and will lead their attack in next week's World Cup warm-up match against Switzerland in Basle.

Hoenes, the 33-year-old Bayern Munich forward, has only two international caps. His last came in May 1979, when he scored three goals in victories over Ireland and Iceland.

Hoenes, who has played for Bayern Munich since 1974, is being recalled to lead the German attack in the UEFA Cup semi-finals.

RUGBY UNION London Welsh put their big match before the sevens

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent
London Welsh, whose centenary dinner was last night and whose final birthday fixture will be the game against a distinguished President's XV on April 12, will miss next Wednesday's London floodlit sevens at Roehampton.

The sevens - which attracts the other nine London merit table clubs together with Cambridge University, last year's winners, Durham University and Essex - have found new sponsors. This twelfth tournament will be held under the banner of Sturgis and Son - the London estate agents whose principal, George Sturgis, was president of Rosslyn Park five years ago.

There is an interesting pairing at lock where two 1983 Lions play together, Norster, of Cardiff and Bairdridge, of Fylde. Neither player was considered for international rugby this season because of dismissals incurred during club games in the first half of the season.

England Colts play Wales Youth at Whitland on Saturday with a side showing two changes from the which lost 16-0 to Italy in Rome last month.

Belated chance for Welsh schools

By David Hands
This season has been sadly curtailed for the Welsh schools owing to disruption caused by the teaching dispute. But, as far as representative matches are concerned, over the last months their administrators have salvaged a large part of the season which now begins with 18 Group Esso International against Scotland at Neath on Saturday.

This match should have been played in January but was postponed because of Welsh difficulties in raising a side, a problem which also contributed to the cancellation of yesterday's scheduled game against France. But, given that it has been organised over the last three weeks and selection has been assisted by the Inter-County competition for under-17s and the fact that there are five survivors from last season's 18 group to Zimbabwe, it is a four of the quintet, including Andrew Booth, the captain and scrum half, play against Scotland at Neath on April 12.

ROWING Focus on Nottingham

Fifteen hundred competitors and officials from more than 20 countries are expected to take part in what could be the biggest ever world rowing championships, at Nottingham from August 17 to 24 (Jim Ralton writes).

Frances Anne, president of the British Olympic Association and patron of the rowing championships is among a number of dignitaries planning to visit the event throughout the weeks. One visitor with more than a passing interest will be Juan Antonio Samaranch, the president of the International Olympic Committee. If Birmingham succeeds in its bid to stage the Olympic Games, the Home Office's agreement will be the venue for the 1988 Olympic Regatta.

PPA CERTIFIED DIVIDENDS
All dividends subject to restructuring All matches for March 29th
LITTLEWOODS POOLS LIVERPOOL
THIS WEEK'S Cracking Easter SHARE-OUT
TREBLE CHANCE
24 PTS..... £1,406.80
23 PTS..... £29.25
22 1/2 PTS..... £6.20
22 PTS..... £3.05
21 1/2 PTS..... £1.05

VERNONS POOLS LIVERPOOL
THOUSANDS OF LUCKY WINNERS
ON THE MESSY £2 Million PLUS
5 GOES A PENNY Treble Chance
24 pts..... £375.00
23 pts..... £7.65
22 1/2 pts..... £1.70
22 pts..... £0.90

ZETTERS POOLS LONDON EC1
LEADING STANDINGS WIN £24,729 plus hundreds of other 'TOPS'
TREBLE CHANCE POOL
24 Pts..... £194.05
23 Pts..... £2.35
22 1/2 Pts..... £0.55
22 Pts..... £0.90

The Romanians informed the Mexican federation of their decision to withdraw by tele. But a spokesman for the Mexicans yesterday criticised the decision and said that tickets had been sent on time. The two countries are now attempting to rearrange the games for later this month.

TENNIS Banned Connors may play at Beckenham

Jimmy Connors, who was fined £13,400 and banned from tennis for defaulting in a match in February, is expected to play in the Beckenham tournament in June - seven days before his suspension expires.

Connors received his ban from the Men's International Professional Tennis Council (MIPTC) two weeks ago for pulling out of a semi-final match with Ivan Lendl in the Lipton International in Florida.

FOR THE RECORD

Table with columns for BASKETBALL, FOOTBALL, ICE HOCKEY, BOXING, and TENNIS, listing various sports events and results.

GOLF Saunders calls circuit 'a disgrace'

Vivien Saunders, who pioneered the formation of the European women's tour, yesterday described this year's WPGA circuit as "an utter disgrace".

"Lots of the girls cannot afford to play," said the former British Open champion. "It is an utter disgrace that it should cost them something like £10,000 for the privilege of playing."

ENTERTAINMENTS

Table listing various entertainment events, including plays, musicals, and performances at different venues.

PROPERTY

Table listing real estate listings, including properties for sale or rent in various locations like North of the Thames, Richmond & Kingston, and Scotland.

Large advertisement for property services, including listings for houses, flats, and commercial properties, with contact information for agents.

Today's television and radio programmes Edited by Jane Henderson and Peter Davalle

BBC 1

6.00 Cee-fax
6.50 Breakfast Time with Frank Bough and Elaine Scott.
7.00 News at 7.00. 7.25, 7.55, 8.25 and 8.55.
7.55, 8.25 and 8.55. Regional news and traffic at 8.57, 7.27, 7.57 and 8.27; national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00.
Holiday ideas from Nigel Coombs. Glynn Christian on cookery. Richard Smith on health helpine (01 611 1068).

TV-AM

6.15 Good Morning Britain presented by Harry Kelly and Annela Rice. News with Jayne Irving at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00.
Weather at 6.28, 6.58, 7.28, 7.58 and 8.28. Sport at 8.30 and 7.04.
Cartoon at 7.24. Pop video at 7.54. Postbag at 8.35. 9.00 Wee-dy.

ITV

9.25 Thames News followed by the Mountain
9.45 Animated Classics Jules Verne's escape story
10.35 The AB-Elctric
11.00 Open University Start up your own Business: advice from those who have started successful businesses.

Channel 4

2.30 Film: Moon On Six (1955)
2.55am Shipping 6.00 News
6.30 Today, at 6.30, 7.30, 8.30, 9.30, 10.30, 11.30, 12.30
6.30 News: Financial Report
6.30 News: Financial Report
6.30 News: Financial Report

Radio 4

On long waves. VHF stereo at end of Radio 4.
5.55am Shipping 6.00 News
6.30 Today, at 6.30, 7.30, 8.30, 9.30, 10.30, 11.30, 12.30
6.30 News: Financial Report
6.30 News: Financial Report

Radio 3

On medium waves. VHF stereo at end of Radio 3.
6.55 Morning Concert
7.05 Morning Concert
7.15 Morning Concert

Radio 2

On medium waves. For VHF stereo, see Radio 1.
News on the hour: Headlines
6.30am, 6.30, 7.30, 8.30, 9.30, 10.30, 11.30, 12.30
6.30 News: Financial Report
6.30 News: Financial Report

Radio 1

On medium waves. Stereo on VHF.
News on the hour from 6.30am until 9.30pm and at 12.00
6.00am Adrian John 7.30 Mike Read 9.30am Simon Bates 12.30pm Newsbeat (Janet Turner) 12.45 Newsbeat (Janet Turner) 1.30pm Newsbeat (Janet Turner) 2.15pm Newsbeat (Janet Turner) 3.00pm Newsbeat (Janet Turner) 3.45pm Newsbeat (Janet Turner) 4.30pm Newsbeat (Janet Turner) 5.15pm Newsbeat (Janet Turner) 6.00pm Newsbeat (Janet Turner) 6.45pm Newsbeat (Janet Turner) 7.30pm Newsbeat (Janet Turner) 8.15pm Newsbeat (Janet Turner) 9.00pm Newsbeat (Janet Turner)



Daniel J. Travanti as Ed Murrow: Channel 4, 9.30pm

CHOICE
The newspaper war will find it in their hearts to admire the unfeeling of Mr Shah when tempers were snapping all around him as the minutes ticked away and it began to look as if the most-enthusiastic of all members of the staff were given to allow them a more optimistic view of their future, would quickly be worn out through over-use.

Peter Davalle
4.05 Bookshelf: Barbs and Buckeroos. Christopher Frayling proves that the concept, rejected, concentrated action by 2,000 women aimed at stopping the slaughter without further ado. And it was those men who monopolized the world of fine arts in mid-nineteenth century Britain who caused Mary Ellen Best to pick up her brushes and palette in an act of quiet defiance and go off to paint those amazingly detailed scenes of domestic life that have recently delighted visitors to the Fine Art Society in London. She mastered the photographic art before anyone started to use a camera, and it is a small wonder that socialists and art lovers row units to praise her.

ENTERTAINMENT

ART GALLERIES
BARBICAN ART GALLERY, Barbican Centre, London EC2A 4PU. Tel: 01-252 3000.
ROYAL ACADEMY, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1A 1AA. Tel: 01-262 5100.
TATE GALLERY, Millbank, London SW1P 3QP. Tel: 01-834 7200.

OPERA & BALLET
COLONEL'S OPERA HOUSE, 210 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 0LP. Tel: 01-252 3000.
ROYAL OPERA HOUSE, Covent Garden, London WC2E 9DD. Tel: 01-252 3000.
ROYAL BALLET, Covent Garden, London WC2E 9DD. Tel: 01-252 3000.

THEATRES
AMERICAN DANCE THEATRE, 100 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 0LP. Tel: 01-252 3000.
ROYAL OPERA HOUSE, Covent Garden, London WC2E 9DD. Tel: 01-252 3000.
ROYAL BALLET, Covent Garden, London WC2E 9DD. Tel: 01-252 3000.

CONCERTS
BARBICAN HALL, Barbican Centre, London EC2A 4PU. Tel: 01-252 3000.
ROYAL OPERA HOUSE, Covent Garden, London WC2E 9DD. Tel: 01-252 3000.
ROYAL BALLET, Covent Garden, London WC2E 9DD. Tel: 01-252 3000.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS
BBC1 WALES: Wales Today 6.30-7.00pm.
BBC2 WALES: Wales Today 6.30-7.00pm.
BBC4 WALES: Wales Today 6.30-7.00pm.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS (continued)
BBC1 WALES: Wales Today 6.30-7.00pm.
BBC2 WALES: Wales Today 6.30-7.00pm.
BBC4 WALES: Wales Today 6.30-7.00pm.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS (continued)
BBC1 WALES: Wales Today 6.30-7.00pm.
BBC2 WALES: Wales Today 6.30-7.00pm.
BBC4 WALES: Wales Today 6.30-7.00pm.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS (continued)
BBC1 WALES: Wales Today 6.30-7.00pm.
BBC2 WALES: Wales Today 6.30-7.00pm.
BBC4 WALES: Wales Today 6.30-7.00pm.

SPORT

The cruel test goes on for sad England

From John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent, Port of Spain, Trinidad

There being no way of calling the series off on humanitarian grounds, the fourth Test match between England and West Indies, sponsored by Cable and Wireless, starts here today. The rest day is not until Monday, and the odds must be against the game still being alive by then.

The pitch at the Queen's Park Oval is normally at its best for batting at this time of year, and when Australia lost the first three Tests of their last series against Australia, they then drew the fourth and won the fifth. But I am clutching at straws: for Australia turned the tables only on the second day of the match at Melbourne and Sydney were entirely unsuited to the West Indian fast bowlers.

After giving his injured thumb a long rest yesterday morning, Gattling decided reluctantly that it would be wrong for him to play. Even against the medium pace of Gooch and Slack it jarred painfully, and the pitch for today still looked menacingly grassy. In Gattling's absence, Smith has been included in the England squad, in case it is decided to play an extra batsman at the expense of a bowler. Botham hangs on to his place, but not before there had been some discussion as to whether he should.

The West Indians, for their part, show no signs of tiring of their supremacy, which is one of the reasons why, man for man, they are a good deal fiercer than England. Their determination to stay at the top is exemplified by Richards, who trains as hard now as he ever did. None of his side would dare not follow his lead. Even at age of 34, he is their best all-round fielder with the strongest throw of any of them.

By winning again and making it nine victories in a row against England, West Indies

made hundreds in the last two Tests after England had lost the first two. What had not hit that side though, despite their evacuation from Guyana and Ken Barrington's death, was the sense of submission that is lurking now. England's fielding practice yesterday, with the catches being hit by Willis, would hardly have done for a village side, and certainly not for a prep school.

If England do fail again, without making a fight of it, some heads will have to roll, one of which could be Botham's. In the series so far he has taken four wickets at 53 runs apiece and averaged 13 with the bat, and he goes into today's match, as he did the third Test, with his lifestyle being questioned, this time by his manager, or agent, or whatever he is, a ludicrous-looking figure whose arrival is imminent.

The squads

WEST INDIES (from): I V A Richards, C G Greenidge, D I Haynes, R B Richardson, H A Gomes, JP J Dujon, M D Marshall, R A Harper, M A Holding, J Garner, B P Patterson, C A Walsh.
ENGLAND (from): D I Gower, G A Gooch, RT Robinson, DM Smith, A J Lamb, P Willey, J T Botham, P H Edmonds, J E Emburey, JP R Downton, J G Thomas, R H Ellison.

strated their loyalty to the heroic West Indian team and their love of the game itself as much as their refusal to be swayed by rabble-rousers and people with a distorted vision of reality.

For the moment, at any rate, the anti-apartheid demonstrators are a long way off an arena. But that was a one day game on Monday, with the one-day series still undecided. Interest in the Tests has been badly affected. I am afraid, by England's wretched form.

A great many West Indians would like now to see England win, or at least put up a better show, and it should be some encouragement that when we were here five years ago, Willey, Gooch and Gower all

made hundreds in the last two Tests after England had lost the first two. What had not hit that side though, despite their evacuation from Guyana and Ken Barrington's death, was the sense of submission that is lurking now. England's fielding practice yesterday, with the catches being hit by Willis, would hardly have done for a village side, and certainly not for a prep school.

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Drugs are at the bottom of it again, which reminds me of a dig which Gower had at the pitch for today. Picking a leaf of one of several weeds showing in it yesterday, he asked me whether I thought it was being grown for smoking. Morale may be pretty low, but they have not altogether lost their sense of humour.

Tomlins signs

Gloucestershire, who finished third in last season's county championship, have signed the former Middlesex batsman Keith Tomlins, aged 28, on a two-year contract.

Jarvis fit

Paul Jarvis, Yorkshire's most successful bowler last summer, who had to return early from his winter contract in South Africa because of back trouble, reported fully fit when the club's players resumed training for the new season at Headingley.



Uphill struggle: Kim Andersen, of Denmark, on his way to victory in the Paris-Camembert cycling race

AMERICA'S CUP DIARY

Canada's French Kiss of death

Don Green, chairman of the Canadian Tree North syndicate, has called a halt to his group's America's Cup programme after they ran out of funds last week.

Green, who has donated \$3m out of his own pocket, says that the syndicate, one of two challenging from Canada, needs a further \$5m to complete construction of a second boat and return to Perth for the challenge trials, and has given the team 30 days to garner support from corporate sponsors.

The Canadian funding programme was not helped by the lack-lustre performance of the syndicate's first boat, Tree North at the recent 12-metre world championship—a problem heightened later by the resignation of the helmsman, Hans Fogh.

The former Olympic gold medalist, who took over at the helm half-way through the world series, transforming the yacht's performance, left the team after they had been beaten 7-0 by the Mark Pajot-skippered French Kiss in a series of informal match races, complaining of a conflict over strategy between himself and his skipper, Jeff Boyd.

"What the boat lacks is speed. We need to make urgent changes to the hull but instead of making the alterations here in Fremantle, it was decided to ship the boat back to Nova Scotia. That means three valuable months when we should be tuning up against other syndicates and it just won't work," Fogh told me somewhat prophetically a few weeks ago.

Another group facing delays is the American west coast syndicate representing the St Francis Yacht Club headed by Tom Blackaller. Their new yacht, USA, designed by Gary Mall did not measure up as a 12 metre when launched in February and work continues to rectify the design.

Here in Britain, the recent trial of strength competition to find a number of Frank Brine lookalikes to till over the powerful coffee grinder winches on the two British 12-metres, has led to two new crew members flying out to Perth to join Harold Cudmore's squad.

Sean Campbell, aged 30, from Arnold, Nottinghamshire, is a 6ft 3in 154 stone rower and is joined on the flight next week by Paul Rushton, from Maidenhead, a 23-year old, 6ft 2in rowing and rugby enthusiast, weighing more than 170 stones.

Mark Higgins, the 6ft 9in power lifter and discus thrower from Birmingham who tops the scales at 21½ stones and dwarfed all 20 of the original contestants in both strength and stature, plans to join the team in June in time to work up on the second 12 metre, a 70-ft David Hollow design now nearing completion at Hamble.

Cudmore, who is due to take the crew out for a first test sail on Crusader — the first of Britain's two 12-metres — on Saturday said in Fremantle that he was confident that the inclusion of non-sailors in the team would pose no significant problems. This, however, was not the case with a similar experiment carried out recently by the New Zealand syndicate. Their efforts to scour their country for muscle-bound powerhouses came to naught when it was found all of them suffered from seasickness.

Last week's series of short races off Fremantle between the challengers for Australia's defence proved a success for Kevin Parry's Task Force syndicate. Kookaburra II, with Britain's Lawrence Smith acting as guest helmsman, scored 14 wins against 12 gained by Alan Bond's world championship winning Australia III. Australia II, the yacht that won the America's Cup in 1983 won 10 of the races and South Australia gained eight victories.

News this week that work has started on a fourth 12-metre for Dennis Connor's Sail America syndicate set off a spate of announcements from elsewhere in the world.

The New Zealanders have set a launch date of June 26 for their third boat. The American Eagle syndicate who launch their first boat on Saturday plan to build another Valentin design immediately and the Alan Bond and Kevin Parry Australian syndicates are vying for tank-testing time at the ship model basin in The Netherlands to test the final lines for Australia IV and Kookaburra III.

Barry Pickthall

GOLF: CONCENTRATION THE KEY TO WINNING A PLACE AT THE MASTERS

Faldo looks for encouragement

From Mitchell Platts, Greensboro, North Carolina

The dogwoods are blooming at Forest Oaks, where the greater Greensboro Open starts today, as they are at Augusta, scene of the US Masters next week, but trying to draw another similarity between the two events is like seeking a comparison between the university match and Henty.

For the Greater Greensboro Open is an excuse for spectators to enjoy a monumental binge whereas the US Masters, of course, unfolds amidst a

lavish tea-party atmosphere with the green-blazered members politely applauding the deeds of men like Jack Nicklaus and Tom Watson.

Nicklaus and Watson have long since decided that early practice at Augusta is preferable to competing at Forest Oaks. It is hardly surprising as the Greater Greensboro Open is mostly referred to as the "Beer Can Open" with spectators competing with each other to drink more Budweisers and Michelob.

Nick Faldo, however, does not have an invitation to the annual gathering of the elite down in Augusta, Georgia, so he is here to try and earn the last remaining Masters place which is reserved for the winner.

For Faldo to succeed in this *bier keller* environment is asking a lot even though he has played well here in the past. True, he was third in New Orleans two weeks ago, but his form in general over the last two years has lacked sparkle.

With so much at stake it would hardly seem the optimum time for Faldo's concentration to be examined, as the very merry fans rock in the aisles, but in some respects it might be exactly what he needs.

"I like the course, it's more British than most in the States, but I wouldn't mind if it blew a little harder and

rained," said Faldo. "I know what I have to do this week but if I don't make Augusta then I'm not going to let it get me down."

"I've been working on the new swing now for 10 months and I'm convinced I'm getting there. My next step is to decide what to do this year. If I don't win here and get into Augusta, then I'll go home for one week. My plan is to come back for three more tournaments, then make a decision on whether to play more here or in Europe."

Faldo knows he must turn his career round now that Sandy Lyle has earned the lion's share of the "fat" offers which come the way of British players.

Lyle, perhaps, might have been better employed this week joining Ballesteros, Nicklaus and Watson practising at Augusta.

EQUESTRIANISM

Leng and the winding road

By Jenny MacArthur

The run-up to next month's world three-day event championships is, in the words of Henrietta Knight, the chairman of the selectors, "the most difficult one ever" because of Australia's stringent quarantine restrictions.

But Virginia Leng, the reigning European three-day event champion, and three others of the seven bound for Australia have an additional worry. They are all competing at Badminton on a second horse in a fortnight's time, just five days before flying out to Australia. In Mrs Leng's case the second horse is the brilliant Night Cap who finished third at Badminton last year.

Mrs Leng has driven more than 1,000 miles in the 10 days since her world championship horse, Priceless, went into quarantine at Wylie, Wiltshire. Night Cap is still based at her home in Gloucestershire along with four other horses which need daily

schooling, so Mrs Leng is making the one and a quarter hour journey between home and Wylie, where the other riders are based, several times a day.

Night Cap has a final pre-Badminton outing at Brockenhurst this weekend, but Mrs Leng said yesterday that she was concerned that Priceless had taken part in only one event, Aldon, since winning the European championships last September. The length of quarantine for Australia (four weeks in Britain then two more on Torrens Island off Australia) and the cancellation of Crookham, the first horse trials of the season, had severely curtailed her preparations.

The other three riders preparing horses for Badminton — Ian Stark (Glenburnie and Sir Wattie), Lorna Clarke (Glenrool) and Anne-Marie Taylor (Jimney Cricket) — have their horses based near

Wylie so life for them has been a little less frenetic.

Andy Griffiths, a London insurance broker, and the only one of the seven riders with a job outside horses, has been driving the 200 miles to work from Wylie every day to oversee his newly formed company, Petprotect. Griffiths, who like Miss Taylor and Mandy Orchard is competing in his first championships in Australia, a nine-year-old who like Miss Orchard's Venture Busby has had just one outing, a novice event last month, since last year's European championships.

Most of the riders, including Clarissa Strachan who is competing in her fifth official championships, are likely to take up the option of competing in an event in Australia which takes place two days after quarantine ends. The horses will be flown out on April 20.

SPORT IN BRIEF

The light brigade

England could wear an unfamiliar sky blue strip in the World Cup finals in Mexico. The red change shirts worn by Bobby Moore and company when they won the Jules Rimet trophy in 1966 are considered too dark for the heat of Mexico.

The blue shirt and shorts have been officially registered as England's second colours because they will keep players cooler in temperatures which are expected to exceed 90 degrees Fahrenheit. The kit manufacturers, Umbro, will use the synthetic material they experimented with last summer.

Rule waived

The International Skating Federation has waived the rule barring amateurs and professionals competing together to allow the sport's top stars to help raise funds for Sports Aid, a joint venture between Bob Geldof's "Band Aid" and UNICEF.

Grand entry

Riders from eight countries will be among the 60 entries in the 31st Wincanton Wheels international cycling grand prix at Beaconsfield on Sunday.



Brundle: new car unveiled

Britain's Martin Brundle will have a new car for the remainder of this year's Formula One world championship. Brundle and his French team-mate Philippe Streiff were at yesterday's Silverstone unveiling of the Data General Tyrrell Renault 015, which can reach a speed of 200mph and will be used for the first time in the Spanish Grand Prix at Jerez on April 13.

Heavily backed

Ireland's three-man golf team, led by a slimmer Christy O'Connor junior, start as clear favourites in the Dunhill Cup qualifying tournament at Nimes, France, today. O'Connor teed off two stones lighter following a diet. "Hungry golfers make the best ones," he quipped.

Don bows out

Adelaide — Sir Donald Bradman, Australia's most famous cricketer, announced yesterday that he was severing his last official ties with the game he has dominated as a player and administrator for the past 59 years. "The Don", aged 77, will retire at the end of June from his positions as trustee of the South Australian Cricket Association and member of its ground and finance committee.

Rugby debate

Two important submissions were being considered last night by the Rugby League management committee. A London-based consortium put forward proposals for the purchase of Fulham which would allow the second division club to commute its fixtures this season. The move for a super league was also being discussed.

England shine

England's Under-18 and Under-16 teams struggled against Wales, then found their touch against Scotland in the home countries' schoolboys' football tournament at Coventry.

Masters final

Gateshead will stage the final of the British Masters basketball tournament next Wednesday.

BADMINTON

Clark is about to face her moment of truth

From Richard Eaton, Uppsala, Sweden

Gillian Clark, aiming to win the European doubles title with a different partner for the third successive year, knows her playing future may hinge on what happens here over the next three days.

Clark, aged 24, partnered by Gillian Gowers, opened the defence of her title with an emphatic 15-2, 15-4 victory over Ireland's Elaine Doyle and Iceland's Kristin Kristjansdottir. But far more important than the results, or perhaps even retaining the title, will be the condition of the champion's knee at the end of the week.

The knee is now elaborately swathed in bandages after Clark's third bad injury in three years. The trouble first occurred in the English Masters tournament in 1983 returned next year to the Uber Cup in Kuala Lumpur and returned again in Taiwan in January.

Clark has now restricted the movement she originally used to perform round-the-head shots — which caused the original accident — and is having to make a number of other adjustments in order to survive. "In the last two months I have also had to alter the way I lunge for the shuttle," she said. "And I have

to do all sorts of work and preparations before I can even begin the training other players take for granted."

She has been encouraged by a promise from Jake Downey, the England manager, that if she is moving satisfactorily she will be included in the Uber Cup squad which leaves for Jakarta on April 16. It will be a great tribute to her if she makes the trip.

Clark was not, however, risked in the side for the European team final against old rivals Denmark last night.

Downey preferred Karen Beckman and Sara Halsall but the other European doubles champion Martin Dew was included. He arrived from Copenhagen on Tuesday night and, partnered by Dajak Fajtor, opened in the individual event with a 15-1 15-2 win against the Hungarians. (Sabe Kiss and Gabor Petrovits)

Later the pair learned they were on course for a contest with Jesper Hellede and Steer Fladberg, the former world champions that is likely to have a crucial bearing on whether England can hang on to their title against Denmark in what would be the seventh meeting between the two in eight finals.

Multiple Sclerosis is merciless. It's a disease that can strike anybody, anytime. And there's no cure. Yet. Every penny you contribute to the Multiple Sclerosis Society brings the cure that much closer. It also brings some comfort to the many thousands who suffer the misery of impaired speech, loss of eye-sight, incontinence and paralysis. The much-publicised events of the past twelve months have demonstrated just how generous people can be when they believe in a cause. Our cause is very important. Please give as much as you can. Because the sooner we find the answer the sooner we can ensure that the lives of those nearest to you are not torn apart.

If charity begins at home, imagine yours being torn apart.



Multiple Sclerosis Society of the UK. NAME: _____ TCI. ADDRESS: _____ WE CAN FIND THE CURE ONLY IF WE FIND THE FUNDS. To: The Multiple Sclerosis Society, 25 The Quadrant, London SW3 7NY. Telephone: 01-773-6127. Fax: 01-773-61955.

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